

THE UN-UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ronald L. Schoenewolf

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	vii
Chapter One Precursors - Harbingers - or - What the Hell Happened?	1
Chapter Two Division of the States	4
Chapter Three Moving	6
Chapter Four The Border	10
Chapter Five International Perspectives	12
Chapter Six Government	14
Chapter Seven Religion	17
Chapter Eight The Worm Begins to Turn	19
Chapter Nine The Budget	21
Chapter Ten Taxes	24
Chapter Eleven Campaign Finance, Candidacy, and Term Limits	27
Chapter Twelve Defense and Diplomacy	30
Chapter Thirteen Energy and the Environment.....	32

Chapter Fourteen Healthcare	36
Chapter Fifteen Republicans and Big Government	38
Chapter Sixteen Education.....	40
Chapter Seventeen Abortion	43
Chapter Eighteen Immigration and Population	46
Chapter Nineteen Legal and Punitive Systems	48
Chapter Twenty Sex Laws	50
Chapter Twenty-one Drugs	52
Chapter Twenty-two Censorship	54
Chapter Twenty-three Gun Laws	56
Chapter Twenty-four Euthanasia	59
Chapter Twenty-five Israel.....	61
Chapter Twenty-six On the Lighter Side - Sports	63
Chapter Twenty-seven Tobacco	65
Chapter Twenty-eight Regulate versus Deregulate	67
Chapter Twenty-nine 2017	69
Chapter Thirty 2018	72
Chapter Thirty-one 2019	74
Chapter Thirty-two 2020.....	76
Chapter Thirty-three A New Country is Formed.....	78

INTRODUCTION

The ideological differences between the people who called themselves Democrats and those who called themselves Republicans had grown more distinct over the decades. The battle between the two political parties, and their followers, had cost the majority of the American citizens dearly. Legislation that would have been important to the average American rarely got passed because of the constant bickering between party members. There had been third parties, of course, and independents, but with few exceptions they had no measurable impact on politics as usual in the United States.

In this fictional work, the author draws upon current and past political ideologies of both political parties to show what life would be like if there was an actual physical splitting of the United States into two distinct countries and each political party had a chance to put its ideas of what the United States should be like into practice.

The first chapter tells about the events that took place prior to the division of the States. It didn't happen overnight. There were many arguments, incidences, and innuendoes that occurred over many years that had been building distrust, and even hate in some cases, between members of both parties.

The author explains how the States were divided and why. Then he tells about the moving of the Democrats to the Democrat States of America, or DSA, and the Republicans to the Republican States of America, or RSA. He also writes about the border between the RSA and DSA and how it operated.

The remaining chapters cover all of the important, and not so important, subject areas pertinent to life in the two new countries, and how the Democrats and the Republicans each governed their people, based on the ideological stances they had taken throughout the years. Some of those ideas originated from the far left and far right fringes of each political party. The author thinks that, with no competition from an opposing party, the radical

fringes of each party would have taken on much more power and, in some cases, would have been 'all powerful'.

All of the occurrences and ideas expressed in this work of fiction are based entirely on the frame of reference of the author and are in no way intended to be factual.

CHAPTER ONE

PRECURSORS - HARBINGERS - OR - WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

The ideological differences between the two major political parties in the United States, and the people who swore allegiance to those parties, had become more and more distinguishable through the years. It had gotten so bad by the beginning of the twenty-first century that unless a party had control of the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the White House, no important legislation could be passed. When that occurred, it was the majority of the American people that suffered. In other words, all but the well-to-do Americans suffered. Bills that dealt with education, welfare, Social Security, the economy, the creation of jobs, and other important bills that were important to hard working Americans, hardly ever got passed. Americans depended on their elected officials to pass laws that would help them achieve their piece of 'the American dream'. The Government seemed to be at a standstill.

The American people were angry and depressed. The economy was in the worst condition it had been in since the depression of the 1920s. When a Republican controlled Senate, House of Representatives, Supreme Court, and White House took over at the beginning of the twenty-first century, they began with a balanced budget and strong economy, which had been left to them by a Democrat administration. Then, an oil hungry U.S. was led into an ill-begotten war by that same Republican controlled Government and, eight years later, America was trillions of dollars in debt. That war for oil also took the lives of many young American men and women and many civilians in the country with whom the United States was at war.

Another important part of the economy meltdown was the thousands of home foreclosures all over the United States. Years earlier, a Republican congressman, with the support of a Republican President, had deregulated the banking industry. That allowed the banks to lend money to people who they know could not repay their loans. In other words, there were no safeguards to prevent those loans from taking place. In the end, the banks crashed and had to depend on the Federal Government to bail them out. Simply, the American people had to bail them out.

After eight years of Republican dominancy, a Democrat was elected President of the United States in 2008. To top it off, he was an African American. He was the first African American ever elected to the highest office in the land. The Republicans who tried to stop the civil rights legislation of the 1960s surely turned over in their graves. At almost the same time, but earlier, the Democrats gained control of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Republicans were fuming. They made up their collective minds that they were going to fight the Democrats and the President on every piece of legislation they tried to pass whether it was good for the American people or not. Talk of secession echoed throughout the land, fueled by the governor of a southern state who had done everything but use the word, secession.

In the meantime, Democrats were becoming increasingly more angry about not being able to pass legislation concerning healthcare, the economy, and education. The Republicans were putting the filibuster to good use. It was very disappointing for the Democrats to be thwarted in their every attempt to help those Americans in need. The Democrats were also still angry about all the money the Government had spent on the aforementioned war.

Adding impetus to the idea of division of the States, from the viewpoint of the Democrats, was intelligence information, gathered by the FBI and the Southern Poverty Law Center, that extremists such as the Neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan, and other hate groups, were growing at an alarming rate since the election of the first Black President. The deep hatred of bigotry began to expose itself in a way not seen since the War Between the States.

The right wing of the Republican Party organized a large protest in Washington D.C. During the demonstrations, many secession signs could be seen. The leaders of both parties began talking about the possibility of splitting the States. Each could see positive aspects about having their own states and being able to run them according to the ideals of their political party. People, both Democrats and Republicans, were writing and calling their respective members of Congress and telling them they were in favor of splitting the States. Speeches were made by Senators and Representatives asking for a vote. If this was to be done, said one Democrat in the Senate, it should be done by a popular vote of the American people. It should also only be done after the people were fully informed of all the implications involved in such a decision.

The final straw for the Democrats came when the Supreme Court, with a majority of Republican judges, decided to rescind the limits on the amount of campaign spending by corporations. It was no secret that the Republicans

had always received more campaign funds from the large corporations and the wealthy Americans than the Democrats. The Republicans had reciprocated by passing legislation that was beneficial to both factions, the wealthy, and the large corporations, through tax breaks and loopholes. Many corporations and many wealthy Americans were paying no taxes at all. The Democrats, on the other hand, had always fought for the down-trodden and minorities. There hadn't been much financial help there. As a result of the Supreme Court decision, the Democrats could see that the future looked dim as far as winning future elections. The Supreme Court, which was supposed to be apolitical, had almost completely taken the common man out of the campaign spending process.

So it was that, early in the year 2009, a popular vote by the people of the United States of America, by a large majority, said yes to a division of the States between the Democrats and Republicans. The minority political parties and independents had no choice but to go along with the followers of the two major political parties.

CHAPTER TWO

DIVISION OF THE STATES

Many factors had to be considered by the members of the Senate and House of Representatives as they wrote down their ideas about how the States should be divided. Most agreed that it would be virtually impossible to divide them according to which had, by a majority, voted for either the Republican or Democrat Presidential candidate. The Democrat States of America would all have to be connected and the Republican States of America would all have to be connected. Without connectivity, there could be no distinct border, transportation within each new country would be difficult, to say the least, and trade with other countries would be severely hampered. That discussion, about the division of the States, came very close to matching the one that took place in the 1850s between lawmakers of slave and non-slave States.

It was decided that each new country should have access to an ocean for the purpose of importing and exporting goods and services. Although there would be trade agreements between the RSA and the DSA, each would also have to form separate agreements with foreign countries. Ocean accessibility was also necessary for the purpose of tourism. Tourists, coming by ship, should not have to pass through one country to get to another. It was thought by the lawmakers that there would be much curiosity around the world about life in both new countries.

Weather was also an important factor to consider. Both the DSA and the RSA would have to have states that were traditionally warm weather states and states that were usually cold weather states. Citizens needed the option of moving to a state that had weather similar to the one they were leaving. Thinking ahead to a time when clean renewable energy would be a way of life in the DSA, the Democrat lawmakers wanted the western side of the split so

as not to have to endure the polluted air of the RSA being pushed through its States by the usual westerly winds.

Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate decided that acreage was more important than the number of states that would be in the DSA and the RSA. That part of the division arrangement was the most hotly contested of all of the division factors. Both the Democrats and the Republicans wanted there to be a specific border between the two countries. It was decided that Hawaii would be a part of the DSA and Alaska would be part of the RSA since that was how the majority of citizens in those two States had voted in the last Presidential election.

Both sides wanted Washington D.C. so that the new country's capitol would not have to be moved and no new buildings would have to be built. Both sides also wanted to keep New York City, the main tourist attraction of America. Then again, no one wanted to move, period. Choices had to be made, however, so each side had to give up States and conditions they wanted. For once, the Republicans and Democrats were forced to agree on some important issues.

It was decided that the border between the Democrat States of America and the Republican States of America would begin, going south, between Lake Superior and Michigan, and then go along the western boundary of Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

All Federal elected and appointed officials would keep their current positions until their terms expired. That would make the transition much less difficult. Officials of the states and cities in each new country would have to be elected. The RSA would keep Washington D. C. as its capitol and the DSA would establish its capitol in Salt Lake City, Utah.

All roads and highways on the borderline between the DSA and RSA would have checkpoints. No weapons of any kind would be allowed to go from one country to the other. Citizens of each country would have to have RSA/DSA identification cards. Originally, the crossing of citizens from one country to the other was to be rather simple. Lawmakers did not want to make the entire ordeal any more problematic than it already was. A number of unforeseen factors made the crossing much more complicated later on. The lawmakers decided that people should be allowed access to their friends and relatives who lived in the other side of the Un-United States. Law enforcement officials of the RSA and DSA planned to share information about all citizens who were in their respective data bases.

CHAPTER THREE

MOVING

The most complicated and dreaded part of the division of the States into two separate countries was the moving of the Democrats to the Democrat States of America and the Republicans to the Republican States of America. The problems notwithstanding, there was also some excitement about the prospect of moving to a country loaded with members of one's own political party. A special department entitled, "The Department of Political Movement" had to be created to take care of the technicalities. Under that department, there were some mini-departments created to handle specific areas of the moving process.

There was a separate department created for each type of residence, such as apartments, houses, condominiums, townhouses, farms, and ranches. Each of those mini-departments had to make a list of all places of abode that would be vacated. The worth of all of the places of residence also had to be determined. Then, that information had to be distributed to every American citizen over the age of eighteen. Each citizen then had to select at least three possible places of residence to which he would like to relocate. People were not allowed to move to a home, etc., that was worth over \$10,000.00 more than the one in which they were presently living. Apartment and condo people had to move to a place of similar expense. People had to move into the same type of residence as the one in which they presently resided. An apartment dweller had to move to an apartment. In cases of families, only one selection sheet had to be sent. The Department then had to sort out who could move to which new home. All this had to be accomplished by March of 2010. The entire process was to be completed by December 2011. After that date, a special application had to be submitted for a move to be made. No one was required to move.

If a Democrat was living in the RSA and wanted to stay, he could, or vice-versa.

Another mini-department was created to handle businesses and corporations that wanted to relocate. Those, also, had to be evaluated for net worth so that no one would gain an advantage with the move. One can just imagine the furor that relocation caused. Many people involved in those trades were not particularly pleased with the results. As far as that goes, many of the families were not happy with their new places of residence. All those possible problems, however, had been explained to the people of the United States before they had a popular vote on the division of the States. It was much worse, however, than anyone had envisioned. Needless to say, there was quite a bit of bitching and moaning taking place.

People were not allowed to move any furniture larger than a chair. That requirement made the movement much less of a hassle. The object was to cut down on the amount of traffic as much as possible. In spite of that, one can picture all of the trucks, cars, trailers, vans, recreation vehicles, etc., driving in both directions during the same period of time. There were not any recorded physical fights as motorists of the two political parties passed each other going in opposite directions, but there were definitely some sign language exchanges and some obscenity shouting.

Members of the National Guard were moved first because they had to take care of the border duties once they were settled. Once the initial moving was complete, special guards were hired to protect the borders on both sides of the division. The respective governments would be in charge of all border activities. It was thought, by both political parties, that border responsibilities would be much too important to be put into the hands of private companies.

Many people had to leave lifelong friends. There were many people who had friends who belonged to the other political party. Some had been living in the same community for all of their lives. The school children, in particular, had to suffer the loss of many of their friends. Politics had not entered into their relationships with friends. They lost membership in clubs, teams, and other organizations to which they belonged. Younger children had no inkling of the meaning of the whole division process. They were only conscious of the almost complete disruption of their lives.

There were also many advantages. For example, a person who had lived in New York City and had always wanted to live out where there was more space, less traffic, and cleaner air, could move to one of the Dakotas, Wyoming, or Montana. People from the western states who had always wanted to live in the northeast part of the United States where there were more activities and much more entertainment, could now do that.

Hawaii was the destination for many of the wealthiest families moving from the RSA. The standard of living in Hawaii was known to be higher than in many other parts of the U.S. Most of the wealth, however, remained in the RSA. The Republicans, for decades had fought for legislation that provided tax breaks and loopholes for the wealthiest Americans and the most successful

corporations. Those corporations and wealthy Americans had reciprocated by giving financial support to the Republican campaigns. Of course, the weather in Hawaii didn't deter anyone from wanting to move there.

Outdoorsmen and women, who were Republicans, were attracted to the State of Alaska. With its vast uninhabited land, its wilderness, and abundance of water, it was a perfect place for hunters and fishermen. It also had some of the most scenic land in the world and lots of clean air.

Many people, who had been living on the east or west coast, wanted to move to the opposite coast because they were conditioned to living close to an ocean. Warm climate people tended to move to warm climate states and cold weather people tended to move to states with traditionally cold weather. That was not always the case, however. Many people saw the move as a chance to make a weather change in their lives and moved to a state where the weather was almost the exact opposite of the one where they had been living. Some craved snow and others wanted to feel the warmth of the sun and leave their snow shovels for the people who were coming to inhabit their home. They saw the move as an opportunity to make changes in their lives that they had dreamed of for years.

Non-religious people and non-Christians tended to move to the DSA because they felt the Democrats would be much more tolerant of other philosophical views than the Republicans. That became more factual when the RSA declared itself a Christian nation a year or so after the split. Actually, Christians, at that time, were fairly evenly distributed between the RSA and DSA in spite of the idea, held by many Republicans, that Democrats were all atheists.

There were many organizations and groups of people, at the time of the split, who were, to say the least, unhappy with the Government. Those extremist organizations, such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Neo-Nazis, the White Nationalists, the Racist Skinheads, and others, did not really associate themselves with either political party. In spite of that, the no gun control and IRS stances of the Republican party throughout the years was enough to convince those extremist groups to remain in, or move to, the RSA. The Republicans had also fought against the civil rights bills of the 1960s and had fought against any laws that would have equalized the treatment of African Americans and other minorities. Neither the RSA nor the DSA wanted those groups to be a part of their country. The DSA, naturally, was happy to rid themselves of them. The RSA, unhappily, had the problem of dealing with them.

The majority of African Americans moved to, or stayed in, the Democrat States of America. Democrats, for the most part, had always fought for the rights of Blacks and other minorities. Mexican Americans, on the other hand, were split. The Catholic influence caused many of them to want to be in the Republican States of America, mainly because of the family planning and abortion issues. The Pope was their religious leader and he was opposed to family planning and abortion. Most Asians, who were non-Christians, moved

to the DSA. They could see the hand writing on the wall and knew it wouldn't be long before the RSA would be dominated by the Christians and they would be shut out. The Asians, who were Christians, were equally divided between the RSA and DSA.

Of course, the best thing about the entire moving process was the prospect of knowing that nearly everyone, in each new country, was going to be of the same political persuasion. There would still be clamoring between the far right, the far left, and the moderates, within each party, but mostly there would be agreement about how their part of America would be governed and what life would be like for them. At least, that was the way it seemed at the time.

CHAPTER FOUR

THE BORDER

There had to be checkpoints on both sides of the borderline dividing the Democrat States of America and the Republican States of America. Those checkpoints were located on every highway and road crossing from one new country to the other. The reader of this fictional work need only read the chapter on gun laws and the one dealing with drug laws to understand the importance of border checkpoints and inspections. Later, rivers were also patrolled to make sure no one was crossing from one country to the other using boats. There were many rivers that flowed between the two countries. Both sides were monitored by national guardsmen and women trained in the inspection of vehicles. Records were kept of people going in and coming out of both the DSA and RSA. When they returned to their own country, their names were taken off the checkpoint sheet.

Most border problems stemmed from the illegal guns going into the DSA from the RSA and the illegal drugs going into the RSA from the DSA. These two problems caused many a backup of cars and trucks attempting to enter one country or the other. Later, of course, the legalization of marijuana by the DSA and the obliteration of gun laws in the RSA exacerbated the entire border inspection process. Later, still, the RSA even checked vehicles for any books, magazines, movies, etc., on their censored list. They also checked for pornographic materials.

Convicted felons in either country had to prove they had relatives or close friends with whom they could stay while in the part of the division to which they wished to travel, and then their time was limited. Then again, there was a limit on visiting time allowed in each country for every person who was not a citizen of that particular country. That limit was usually two weeks, but an extension could be obtained in special circumstances. Most of those

circumstances were related to health issues or death issues. Both governments were somewhat lax about their visiting requirements because they didn't want to make the separation of the States any more complicated than it had to be.

Similar security checks took place at all other transportation sites such as airports, train stations, and bus terminals, although buses and trains were also checked when they crossed the border. The introduction of high speed trains made rail travel a good choice as the years passed.

All the hassle a person had to go through to go from one part of the Un-United States to the other, makes one wonder why anyone would go to the trouble. Many people still had friends and relatives in the other country. Some, from the RSA, went to the DSA to get an abortion after that process was made illegal in the RSA. Those were mainly wealthy people who could afford such an excursion. Some went to one part or the other to go hunting or fishing, to visit a national park, or just visit their previous home town to see how much it had changed. Some were curious to find out whether or not the air was really cleaner in the DSA. Many were curious about what life was like in the other part of the Un-United States. Many citizens, however, were content to get their knowledge by reading newspapers or magazines, watching television, surfing the internet, or going to the movies. Then, there were those people, who didn't make the decision to live in one part of the division or the other originally, but decided later to move.

Both Federal Governments took charge of the monitoring of the border. That duty was considered by both the DSA and RSA as being too important to be placed into the hands of private companies.

CHAPTER FIVE

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

The shock of the splitting of the United States into two countries was felt around the world. Great Britain's Prime Minister said, humorously, that the leaders of America had taken politics to a whole new level. The French people, who before had laughed at the Americans for their prudishness, now had something else to laugh about. The comment from the Soviet Premier was much more serious. He noted that the supposed leader of the free, democratic world had crumbled after decades of trying to get every country in the world to follow its example. Where are they now, was his question?

Countries, around the world, that had been receiving some form of aid from the U.S. were very apprehensive about the split. That aid could have been military, financial, social, or a combination of the three. They were very concerned about whether or not the aid would continue coming and whether it would be the same amount.

The leaders of countries such as Great Britain, France, Spain, Italy, Russia, Germany, and other democratized countries, who regularly kept up with American politics, had a vague idea of what life would be like in each new country once the split was final. Other countries, who had enough problems of their own to think about and did not keep up with the political climate in the United States, were less knowledgeable and more apprehensive about what the split would mean to them.

It was expected by most of the countries around the world that the Democrat States of America would be more open to diplomatic relations with ALL countries and that the Republican States of America would be more selective with its aid and support. That attitude stemmed mainly from the Republicans negative stance on the United Nations throughout the decades. Another factor that had a bearing on that attitude was that the Democrats had

a history of having been less prone toward war and more in favor of diplomatic solutions to problems than Republicans through the years.

The State of Israel, from its inception, had the financial and military support of the United States and both political parties usually agreed on that point. Israel's leaders and people were somewhat apprehensive about the split but were sure that both countries would continue to be supportive.

Saudi Arabia, mainly because of its oil supplies, had been close friends with the U.S., but there were many people in that country, clerics among them, who had harbored hatred for the Americans because of their support for Israel. That hatred was shared by most of the Muslim countries in the world. Those countries took a 'wait and see' attitude. For them, the division was just an interesting turn of events. They enjoyed seeing the supposed leader of the free world, which was dominated by Christians, having problems. It meant, to them, that the United States would not be as concerned with Muslim countries around the world for a period of time.

All countries with whom the United States had some sort of trade agreements were naturally hopeful that those agreements would be honored by the Democrat States of America and the Republican States of America. It was expected that the DSA would require more environmental controls attached to any agreements it undertook since they were the party that had always supported any multi-country environmental conferences that had been held.

CHAPTER SIX

GOVERNMENT

The machinery of the Government of the United States of America had remained largely unchanged since its inception. Amendments had been added to the Constitution, of course, but little else had changed. Bill introduction and passage still followed the same procedure. Lawmakers still campaigned and were elected as they had always been. Even political debates went back as far as Lincoln and Douglas and were still a major part of the election process in the twenty-first century.

DSA

The Capitol of the Democrat States of America was placed in Salt Lake City, Utah. That was thought to be as centrally located as possible. Also, a great many Mormons had vacated the State when the move took place. An added feature was that Utah was one of the most scenic States in America.

New Supreme Court Justices had to be appointed by the President and approved by Congress. Since there were no Republicans to object to the nominations, that process took place rather quickly. It was urgent that all of the principals take their place in the newly formed Government as soon as possible.

A new Constitution had to be written and ratified by both houses of Congress and the President. The new Constitution resembled the old one significantly. The title, the United States of America had to be changed to the Democrat States of America.

The Republican/Democrat rivalry existed no more. There were, of course, factions within the Democrat Party that had different views on some issues, and there were independents who also had varied views, but those problems did not hold a candle to the ones previously encountered between the

Republicans and Democrats. As the years passed, more independent political parties and splinter groups emerged.

RSA

Similar changes to those in the DSA, took place in the RSA after the split. The Constitution had to be renamed and rewritten. The RSA however, unlike the DSA, made significant changes to its Constitution. The Capitol was kept in Washington D.C. Under the RSA Government, the states and cities had more control in certain areas of government that had been controlled by the Federal Government before the split. Republicans had always clamored about 'big government' and 'states rights' and now they had a chance to realize their espoused views.

In the year, 2012, the RSA declared itself a Christian Nation and made English the official language of the new country. The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the Constitution, dealing with the division of church and state, was repealed.

Soon after the division of the States, the newly formed Government of the RSA abolished the Bureau of Tobacco and Firearms, the Department of Energy, the Department of Housing and Development, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education, the Department of Commerce and Labor, the National Endowment of the Arts, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the position of Surgeon General. The RSA was definitely on the road to saving its citizens loads of money by getting rid of those departments. Many people in the RSA, however, who hadn't been paying attention to Republican platforms and stances over the years, were shocked by the aforementioned actions.

The Social Security Administration, Medicare, and Medicaid programs were phased out. The churches were expected to handle nearly all of the load insofar as taking care of the elderly and poor. Citizens were expected to donate a certain percentage of their income to churches to aid them in that huge responsibility. Private companies took over the retirement programs. Unlike the Social Security Administration, those private companies realized great profits in the planning and implementation of retirement programs. Any accumulation of funds citizens had in Social Security was transferred to the private agency of their choice.

The RSA wasted no time in withdrawing from the United Nations. The Republicans had been anti-U.N. for decades. They wanted sovereignty and felt that was impossible as long as they belonged to an organization such as the U.N. They did not need the approval of the U.N. to do anything, including making war on another nation or nations. The RSA also refused to acknowledge any treaties that overrode RSA sovereignty. The United Nations headquarters was moved to Salt Lake City.

There were still factions, as in the DSA, within the Republican Party that kept the process of legislation interesting. The different Protestant churches,

the Catholics, and the Jews, all had differing opinions on some of the issues that were brought up for discussion. There were still some lawmakers who cared about the not-so-wealthy, or who cared about the blue-collar workers as opposed to the white-collar businessmen. Then there were those who clamored for more states' rights and those who wanted a stronger federal government. Although it was much easier for the Republicans to get favored legislation passed, it was not as easy as imagined when the division of the States was just a dream.

CHAPTER SEVEN

RELIGION

The early roots of religion in American can be traced back to the Puritans who came to the then, new country, to escape the oppressive religious and political Government of England. They sought to 'purify' religion. As America grew, so did the different religions of the new country. The United States soon became a melting pot of people from many religious and non-religious backgrounds. By the year 2001, Christians, including Catholics, made up over seventy-five percent of the population of America. The next highest percentage group was the non-religious and secular group with thirteen percent and then those who were Jewish with less than two percent. According to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, however, all citizens, regardless of their religious, or non-religious persuasion, were to be considered equal under the law.

DSA

The separation of church and state became stronger in the DSA after the division of the States. New currency and coins no longer contained any reference to a supreme being. There were no religious symbols or signs on any Government grounds or buildings. There was absolutely no favoritism shown, by the Government, toward any religious, or non-religious, group of citizens. All were to be treated equally.

As the years passed, more non-Christians were elected to public office positions in the DSA. People found that it was not necessary for a person to be religious to be able to do a good job of representing the citizens by whom he or she was elected. They found that a person's behavior was much more important than the beliefs he professed.

RSA

The Republican States of America declared themselves a Christian Nation in the year 2012. The repeal of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment instigated a lively discussion among lawmakers about who was considered a Christian and who was not.

Catholicism was very powerful in pre-division United States. JFK had kicked down the door to politics in America for Catholics when he was elected President in the mid-twentieth century. According to Christians, faith must be in Christ alone. Catholics did not qualify by that standard. There were many similarities between the two religions, however. The important thing was that the U.S. was very closely aligned with Great Britain and that nation leaned strongly toward Catholicism. The RSA was not going to slap its good ally in the face by declaring the Catholics in America non-Christian.

Jews were definitely not Christian. They did not accept Jesus as the Messiah. They lived by the Torah and Talmud. They also believed that all humanity could get into heaven by following the Seven Laws of Noah, whether they were Jewish or not. They also did not believe in miracles. There again, however there was a hook. America's long alliance with the State of Israel was all the insurance needed by those followers of Judaism in the United States to be accepted by the Government of the RSA.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or Mormons, were also accepted as Christians although there were many Christian skeptics who disagreed. That is if one can imagine that a Christian could be a skeptic. Their movement from Utah to the RSA was something to behold. Many of them settled in West Texas because there was much space there and they could settle as a group. There were also mountains in West Texas so the Mormons could feel somewhat at home coming from a state where mountains were the rule not the exception.

After the Christian Nation law was enacted, a new law was passed that required all candidates for a federal, state, or city public office, to swear allegiance to the Christian faith to be allowed to run. Unlike the DSA, in the RSA religious signs and symbols could be seen everywhere in the new country. It was not unusual to see a sign containing the Ten Commandments anywhere one looked.

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE WORM BEGINS TO TURN

The division of the States, the subsequent governments, and the ensuing legislation, led many previously ill-informed voters in both parties, to learn first hand where their respective parties really stood on the issues and how those stands would affect their everyday lives. In any election, most voters were not able to vote intelligently, mostly because they did not make the effort to become informed about the candidates and the issues. Many voters, despite being the correct age to be able to vote, were not of the intelligence to be able to understand all of the issues. They voted for a particular candidate because their friend or relative told them to, or because their pastor, or some other important person, told them to. They voted for a particular candidate because, on the one issue they really cared about, he or she agreed with them. It was much less trouble to focus on one particular issue than to become informed about all the issues. Also, many voters never really understood the impact any election would have on their day to day lives.

Suddenly, both parties were able to pretty much have their way on the issues. The laws they had wanted to pass all those decades became fact. The people in the DSA began living according to the Democrat ideology and the people in the RSA began living according to the Republican ideology. Many of those new laws were enacted during the first three years after the split. Both parties were in a hurry to begin doing the things the Democrat way or the Republican way. What a relief it was for them to be able to pass legislation without the usual partisan politics that had become more evident as the years passed.

For the people in the DSA, there were some major surprises and there were objections raised by many of its citizens. The two child limit per household law was probably the one that was most complained about by

families. Although the Government qualified the law by saying that it might eventually be modified, there was still quite an uproar among the populace regarding it. In spite of that, most people in the DSA realized that with so much less space, stringent measures had to be taken to try to prevent overpopulation. More laws would be passed later, like the prostitution law, and the drug law, that would cause quite a stir among the citizens of the DSA. There would also be some opposition to the introduction of the lottery system, even though all of the proceeds were to go to public education.

Many people in the RSA, however, had a rude awakening not long after the split. The Republican candidates no longer needed to campaign for votes, or make laws that affected the people on the lower end of the economic scale. They no longer needed votes from homosexuals, or from non-Christians, or from minority voters. They no longer had to pay attention to people who cared about the environment and endangered species. They no longer had to care about people who cared about a woman's right to choose abortion. For most Republicans, that issue had been a thorn in their side for ages.

The discontent among the poor, the minorities, and even the blue-collar workers, rose significantly by the year 2013, and some people began to try to move to the DSA, where they felt they would be treated much more fairly. After all, hadn't it been the Democrats who had constantly tried to pass legislation that would help people in need? Hadn't they been the party that had been labeled 'bleeding heart liberals' by the Republicans, and for good reason? Weren't they the party that had fought for healthcare for ALL Americans? Weren't they the party that had fought to keep Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid in tact, and, weren't they the party that had pushed the civil rights legislation of the 1960s through in spite of Republican opposition? Some citizens, in the RSA, began remembering what Democrats had stood for all those years.

The problem was that the relocation process was far from easy. It could take up to six months or more for a family to move from the RSA to the DSA. Jobs had to be found. Dwellings had to be found. One person moving was not that difficult, but the movement of an entire family took some planning and preparation. It was a very difficult process and one that was very depressing and stressful for those people wanting to move. There were also people in the RSA who did not want to move to the DSA. They, instead, wanted the Government to be more responsive to their needs. Those were the citizens who later on would cause most of the trouble for the RSA. Many citizens of the RSA, who were born in other countries, or whose parents were born in a foreign country, after becoming disenchanted with the new RSA country, decided to move back to their home country because of the difficult process of getting into the DSA. Most Republicans were not unhappy to see them leave.

CHAPTER NINE

THE BUDGET

Almost anyone who is asked, will give the same answer as to how to balance a budget. The outflow of cash must not exceed the inflow of cash. That sounds pretty simple. In the year 2008, the United States was in debt up to its highest mountains to the tune of nine trillion dollars, give or take. How did it happen?

A couple of years earlier, a Republican President had gotten America into a war based on lies and deception. Congress went along with the war idea based on incomplete information it had been sent by the Republican Administration. Later, it was discovered that the real reason for the war was the oil located in that country. After the facts were discovered, some Democrats wanted to bring impeachment charges against said President.

Another reason for the debt was the collapse of the banks. Deregulation of the economic system, including the banks, was the major cause of that collapse. That deregulation plan was devised by a Republican Congressman and supported by the then Republican President. Because of the deregulation, the banks were allowed to lend money to people they knew would not be able to pay off their loans. When the loans were forfeited, the homes went into foreclosure and the banks lost money. The end result was that the Government had to lend money to the banks to bail them out of their crises. The Government, of course, meant the American taxpayers. They were the ones who had to pay for the crash of the banks. To add insult to injury, many CEOs of the banks were given large bonus checks with the money the banks had received from the American people. That left the average American wondering what kind of American would accept a bonus check in such a situation?

Matters got worse when three of the largest automobile manufacturers in the United States went down and also had to be bailed out by the American

taxpayers. Apparently there had not been enough wealthy people who wanted those gas-guzzling Hummers. Once again, the American taxpayer had to pay for the mistakes caused by the malpractice of large corporations. Foreign car manufacturers such as Hyundai, Toyota, and Volkswagen, did not need to be bailed out by their country's citizens. They had been building smaller, more efficient cars, while the American manufacturers had been building muscle and luxury cars. The Americans who kept buying those cars were as much to blame as the car manufacturers. Every time the Democrats would try to get the minimum miles-per-gallon raised, the Republicans, funded by the auto manufacturers, and the oil companies, would vote against it. Obviously, the more gas that is needed to operate an automobile, the more oil the oil companies get to sell and the more money they make. One would wonder about a possible collusion between the auto manufacturers and the oil companies.

It was mutually decided, after many serious heated discussions, even arguments, that the national debt would be split in half between the DSA and the RSA. The Democrat States of America leaders felt that most of the debt had been incurred because of the ill-begotten war instigated by the Republican Administration and felt it was unfair for the Democrats to have to pay for it. The Republicans felt that most of the debt was the result of decades of wasteful spending on programs such as Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid, that had been introduced and sustained by the Democrats, so they did not want to pay for the debt.

Most of the debt, owed by the United States at that time, was owed to the country of China. Ironically, the leader of the free world, and great espouser of capitalism, was deep in debt to the communist, socialist country of China.

DSA

In the year 2004, the United States was giving around twenty billion dollars a year in foreign aid. The bulk of that aid was going to Israel and Egypt, mainly because America needed allies in that part of the world. Aid was also given to countries to combat terrorism, for global health, for the never-ending war on drugs, and for economic assistance to developing countries. After the split, the DSA made significant cuts to the amount of aid it offered. Most of those cuts affected Israel and Egypt. The President and Congressional leaders felt their new country needed most of its resources to get started. That helped a great deal in trying to balance the budget.

Other things that helped the DSA balance its budget included more revenue coming in through the legalization and taxation of prostitution and the legalization and taxation of the sale of marijuana. Later, the rent-a-car business on the border between the two countries brought more revenue to the DSA. That happened when the DSA was using seventy five percent renewable energy and began requiring anyone coming into the country, who was not driving a renewable energy vehicle, to rent one.

The DSA balanced its budget in the year 2014 and began paying off its debts - not just the interest, but also the principal.

RSA

The RSA also balanced its budget by the year 2014 but did it in quite a different way than the DSA. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, were phased out and taken over by private enterprises. Churches were expected to carry most of the load regarding social programs and church members were expected to contribute to help the churches with that huge task. The transfer of those social services from the Government to the church took some time to complete and the people who depended on those services to survive suffered, especially the poor and the minorities.

On the other hand, eliminating the IRS, and the taxes incurred by that government institution, considerably lessened the revenue received by the Government. Although there was still a high sales tax, the income was not near as great as it had previously been. The sales tax put much more of a burden on the average RSA citizen than on the wealthy.

Instead of cutting aid to Israel and Egypt, the RSA chose to cut aid to developing countries, especially those involved in the global health programs. That included fighting AIDS and other global issues. A common idea, held by most Republicans, was that AIDS was a homosexual problem and, since they believed homosexuality was a sin and an abomination, they were not going to fund any such programs. The Republicans had also, for years, been against any funding for developing countries that included anything to do with family planning. The RSA did, however, continue to send aid to help in the fight against terrorism and for the war on drugs.

CHAPTER TEN

TAXES

The city, state, and federal governments of a country provide services for the citizens of those respective localities. The provision of those services requires a certain amount of financial support from the people. Money is required to pay the salaries of the elected officials and the people appointed by those elected officials to perform the aforementioned tasks. Highways, roads, and bridges, must be built and maintained. Government offices have to be built and maintained. Public education facilities and personnel must be taken care of by the local and state governments. Public hospitals and clinics must be built and maintained. National defense requires a large chunk of cash to operate and be kept up to date. This most certainly is not a complete list but should give a person an idea of why money has to be collected from the citizens of towns, cities, states, and the country. In the United States of America, that money had almost always been collected using some sort of tax system.

DSA

Within a year of the division of the States, the Government of the Democrat States of America had a new tax system put in place. That had to be done quickly so that the new country could get off to a good start and have the funds with which to operate. Below is a breakdown of how the new tax system worked:

\$20,000 or less			No tax
\$20,001	-	\$40,000	5%
\$40,001	-	\$60,000	10%

\$60,001	-	\$80,000	15%
\$80,001	-	\$100,000	20%
\$100,001	-	\$300,000	25%
\$300,001	-	\$600,000	30%
\$600,001	-	\$1,000,000	35%
\$1,000,001	-	And over	40%

All income would be taxed, but only once. That meant there was no death tax, no capital gains tax, no tax on dividends, and no inheritance tax. The payroll tax was still in effect, however, because it paid for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. There were also no loopholes. There was no way for anyone to get out of paying his fair share. Families did get adjustments for up to two children under the age of eighteen. Families who had more than two children at the time of the installation of the new system received allowances for those children. The rate for businesses was the same as the personal rate regardless of the nature of the business. No State had a personal income tax. Each State had a sales tax of five percent on all non-perishables. No matter which State in the DSA a person was in, the sales tax was the same. Even though the more wealthy citizens objected to paying such a high percentage of their income, they were somewhat appeased by the 'only taxed once' part of the system.

Religious groups, charities, and other groups that could prove they were non-profit continued to be tax exempt. The religious title included ALL religions, not just Christians.

RSA

The first two years after the division were also very busy ones for the Government and citizens of the Republican States of America. The first occurrence was the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Then the Internal Revenue Service was abolished. The Government was downsized. Many departments, as already mentioned, were abolished. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid were phased out very quickly. Republicans had been complaining about those programs for years. The churches took over responsibility for social services with the help of tithes from their members and the individual communities. Church members were required to give ten percent of their income to help support the churches in that endeavor. Non-church membership was frowned upon. The people in the RSA understood that, in order to get rid of the three aforementioned programs, they had to help pick up the slack. Private pensions replaced the Social Security System. People who had money invested in Social Security were refunded that money, with interest, so that they could invest in private pensions. The abolition of Medicare and Medicaid meant people had to purchase their own health insurance, unless it was provided by their employer. Employers were not required by law to do that. The Republican philosophy of 'big government'

not telling business owners how to run their business was the reason for the absence of that law. It would not take long for the absence of those two programs to reek havoc on the average, and less than average, income families.

There was a ten percent sales tax on all non-perishable items. With no IRS, the sales tax had to bear the brunt of the tax burden. The sales tax naturally being harder on poor and average families, the gap between the rich RSA citizens and the rest of the citizens widened rapidly. That process had already begun before the split. The Republicans were again helping the wealthiest citizens even though the political candidates no longer needed the huge campaign funds they previously needed to defeat their Democrat opponents.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

CAMPAIGN FINANCE, CANDIDACY, AND TERM LIMITS

The financing of federal, and even state, political campaigns had grown so dramatically by the year 2008 that millions, and sometimes billions, of dollars were donated to candidates seeking political office. Those funds were used by candidates to buy media coverage, for transportation to speaking engagements, to pay aides, and other various and sundry things. More money meant more media coverage and more personal appearances. More media coverage meant more of the public would be exposed to the candidate and his or her philosophy. That media coverage was also used to show the adversaries of candidates in a bad light. The personal appearances were also used to raise more money. It stood to reason that the candidates who raised the most money had a distinct advantage in the elections.

DSA

Campaign finance in the DSA is easy to explain. There wasn't any! Absolutely no money was to be accepted by a present, past, or future candidate for public office. That included judges. Why? Buying a political office, and that is what was occurring in America, is undemocratic and the leaders of the DSA decided, early on, that no candidate for a public office should have an advantage in an election based on how much money he had, or could raise. All candidates were to receive equal media exposure. Needless to say, that new law put a dent into the millions of dollars of revenue the members of the different media were accustomed to getting.

There were, however, other requirements for persons seeking a public office. All candidates were required to pay a filing fee, of course, but it was not an exorbitant amount of money. Fees had to be collected to pay for the entire election process. Fees were one thousand dollars for a federal office, five hundred for a state office, and one hundred dollars for a local office. Candidates also had to collect a certain amount of signatures on an official petition to be eligible to run. That helped legitimize the candidates. Candidates for federal offices had to collect ten thousand signatures. State candidates had to collect five thousand signatures and local candidates had to collect one percent of the population, but not over five thousand signatures. A candidate was also required to pass a test in order to throw his or her hat into the ring. The tests were not that difficult. They contained questions about the laws and duties relevant to the particular office for which the candidate was running.

Debates were held for each political office. Those debates were televised and broadcast so that every citizen had a chance to be informed about all candidates. At least one debate had to be held for local elections, three for state elections, and five for a national office. Primaries were unnecessary because nearly every candidate was a Democrat. There were a few independents, of course, but they were put on the same ballot. They were also allowed to take part in the debates. No primaries meant the Government was saving a bunch of money.

A major change in term limits took place in the DSA after the split. There was a two four year term limit placed on every local, state, and federal office holder. No one could stay in office longer than eight years. Supreme Court Justices were appointed for one ten year term. Other judicial appointments were for four year terms not to exceed two appointments for the same position. American Presidents had that limit since the inception of the office. After leaving office, a person would no longer be a paid government official. Judges could be appointed to other judicial positions, however.

RSA

The phrase, 'business as usual' can be used to describe the status of campaign finance in the RSA after the division of the States. Candidates continued to raise exorbitant amounts of money to buy ads supporting their run for office. The ones who were able to raise the most money had the best chance for exposure, and winning. Of course, being wealthy in the first place didn't hurt their chances. It was a good deal for the media because it made tons of advertisement money for them. There was no cap on the amount of money an individual, business, or corporation could donate. As in the DSA, nearly all of the candidates running for a political office in the RSA were Republicans. There were also some independents. Candidates made a big deal of their religious affiliation. There were times when Catholics and Protestants competed for office. There were also moderates, those in the middle, and those

on the extreme fringes of the Party. Candidates were allowed to spend finance funds any way they chose.

Term limits remained the same for the RSA as they had previously been for the United States. A person could be reelected to the same political office over and over. The limit for the President of the RSA remained at two four year terms. Office holders would continue to be paid by the Government after they left office and would continue to be covered by Government paid health insurance. Judicial appointments and terms did not change. Supreme Court Justices continued to be appointed for life.

Filing fees were high in the RSA. A person running for President would need to pay a one hundred thousand dollar filing fee to begin the process. Other federal offices required a fifty thousand dollar fee. State aspirants for office had to pay a ten thousand dollar fee and local candidates had to pay one thousand dollars to run. The RSA wanted to be sure that no vagabonds off the street could run for a political office.

Candidates also had to collect signatures on an official petition. The number of signatures required were similar to those in the DSA. Tests were not required of any candidate at any time.

Debates continued to be held in the RSA but they were not required. Candidates had to agree to debate, and to a time and place. Otherwise the debate would not take place. No candidate had to debate unless he or she felt the need. Frontrunners many times did not want to debate because they felt it might be a no-win situation.

CHAPTER TWELVE

DEFENSE AND DIPLOMACY

In the year 2008, the United States spent over 660 billion dollars on defense. The total, spent on defense, by the Russian Federation, China, the United Kingdom, and France, was under 310 billion. One could rationalize that the U.S. had more money to spend than those other countries, but was that a valid argument? The fact was that in 2008, the economy of the U.S. was in terrible shape because of money thrown into two wars, the mistakes made by unregulated banks and lending institutions, and one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation's history. That year, the defense budget was fifty-four percent of the total budget. In other words, more money was spent on defense than on everything else combined.

DSA

The defense budget of the DSA was decreased to 150 billion by the year 2014 and was on a path to be decreased even more. There were several factors that played an important part in that decrease. The DSA signed a non-proliferation treaty with all of the countries of the United Nations. As a part of the treaty, nations were to stop the building of new nuclear devices and scale down the number each had. Those nations, like the DSA, who had more nuclear devices, were to scale down at a faster rate than those that had fewer devices. That, in itself, saved the DSA, and other countries, billions of dollars annually.

“We must never negotiate out of fear, but we must never fear to negotiate”. Those words by John F. Kennedy would serve as a cornerstone of the DSA once the division of the States was complete. The Republicans, before the election of a Democrat in 2008, were led by a Republican President who

was more adept at making enemies of other nations than making friends. He was under the illusion that the United States could be an island unto itself. The Democrat who won the Presidency in 2008 immediately began talks with any nation that was willing. Because of that philosophy of working at diplomacy instead of looking for excuses to begin conflicts, the people and the Government of the DSA felt much safer and therefore felt confident about reducing their defense spending. The phrase, 'pre-emptive war' was no longer a part of the DSA vocabulary.

Another factor that played a part in the decrease in defense spending for the DSA was the elimination of wasteful weapons spending. Before the split, there was always defense legislation that would be passed, not because the weapon, tank, or plane was needed, but so those corporations, that were involved in building those weapons, could continue to earn those big defense bucks. Those were the same corporations that were spending millions of dollars supporting the candidates who were helping pass the legislation. *Quid pro quo* in action.

The most important factor in the decrease of defense spending was that the DSA, after the year 2013, was no longer involved in any major conflict or war. That included military advisers. The DSA began withdrawing troops from foreign countries immediately after the establishment of its Government.

RSA

Defense spending in the RSA, post division of the States, remained pretty much the same. Their aim was still to be the number one world power in spite of the fact that they had been sliced in half. Their nuclear weapons spending increased. As earlier stated, they had withdrawn from the United Nations within two years of the split between the States and therefore did not agree to the new non-proliferation treaty which was signed by the United Nations member nations. Needless to say, their feeble attempts at diplomacy with other nations fell short much of the time. The RSA thought that other nations should come to them. The aforementioned and the fact of declaring itself a Christian nation caused many countries of the world to see the RSA in a not-so-good light.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The very first type of energy was that of human beings getting things done using their very own muscles and resourcefulness. Then, they began using animals to aid them in doing the things they needed to get done to survive. Later, water power made its entrance with water wheels, then the burning of wood and steam, then wind for sailing ships, and finally in the mid-19th century coal and petroleum made their entrance into the energy arena and there was no looking back. There was no real detrimental effect on the environment until the use of coal and petroleum entered the energy picture. Even if there had been there wasn't that much attention paid to the environment. Then, in the mid-19th century, writers began writing about the beauty of America and then the Sierra Club was initiated by John Muir in 1892. From then on it became a battle between the industrial complex and those who wanted to protect the environment. There seemed to be no middle ground. The Republicans always seemed to be more concerned about not stifling energy producers for the protection of the environment. The Democrats were constantly fighting for clean energy and the preservation of national and state parks.

DSA

Taking care of the environment was much less difficult once the Republican obstacle was no longer present. Almost immediately after the split, the Democrat States of America began implementing energy guidelines and environmental protection legislation.

A major goal of the DSA was to rid itself of the dependence on oil as an energy source and, subsequently, end its dependence on foreign oil. To do that,

all forms of transportation had to be converted to electric, solar, geothermal, and wind energy, and new ones had to be manufactured. Batteries that could store and transfer energy from those sources had to be improved. Within a year after the division, work was begun on the batteries. Many people were put to work in the renewable energy field. By the year 2015, almost ninety percent of the cars, trucks, and buses in the DSA were operating on electric, wind, or solar energy.

A new type of wind-driven automobile was invented and mass-produced. It had a lightweight fan which was forced to rotate by the wind created by the movement of the car. The energy from the rotation of the fan was transferred to a battery, which converted the power to energy to operate the car. Those cars were much less expensive than the electric ones but did not go nearly as fast nor as far. A similar concept was utilized for the flight of airplanes. They required larger fans, of course. There were also solar operated vehicles which were also less expensive but could also not go as far nor as fast.

In spite of the fact that the DSA was cleaning its air through the use of electric, solar, and wind-driven automobiles and trucks, there was still a major hindrance to cleaning the air. Vehicles coming into the DSA from the RSA were still bringing their air-polluting engines with them. To put an end to that the DSA put Government owned and operated car rental agencies at each border crossing. That operation was completed by the year 2016. Anyone wishing to cross into the DSA from the RSA in a gasoline powered vehicle was required to lease a renewable energy vehicle before entering the DSA. The money earned through that endeavor was significant. Needless to say, the people traveling to the DSA objected strongly to having to lease a renewable energy vehicle before entering the country. The RSA Government also complained to the DSA Government, but to no avail.

The use of nuclear energy remained pretty much the same in the DSA until around the year 2014. By that year, energy created by renewable sources began providing seventy-five percent of the nation's needs. At that time, the phase out of nuclear energy began. That phase out was completed by the year 2016. All of the waste from those facilities was safely stored away. All personnel involved in the nuclear industry were immediately retrained and put to work in the renewable energy field.

Energy produced through the use of coal was also phased out. By the year 2015, most of the coal mine workers had already been trained and transferred to the renewable energy field. They weren't in danger of being trapped in a mine anymore and they didn't come home covered with coal dust every night. People in the DSA were not having to breathe that coal dust air. Also, mountains were not being destroyed to get to coal. The miners, who at first were very skeptical about the transition, ended up being happy campers.

A method was discovered by which the power of the ocean waves could be harnessed to produce energy. One has only to watch the power of the ocean waves coming in to shore to notice their power. America had been so caught

up in oil and coal energy that it had not been motivated to take advantage of some of the natural energy sources at its disposal.

Another business that became much more important after the division of the States was recycling. There were recycling businesses in every town and city. Almost everything was recycled. There were plants for converting the recycled materials into reusable products. Many people found jobs in that area of work. Many of those recycled materials were used to build homes and other buildings, roads, bridges, and other things.

The Environmental Protection Agency flourished under the DSA Government. A much better job of protecting the environment was achieved without the Republican hindrance. The Endangered Species Act was strengthened and enforced. After a few years, some species were actually taken off the endangered list. People wanted to ensure their children and grandchildren a chance to see animals and plants that they themselves had the opportunity to see.

RSA

Finally, the Republicans could have their way in all laws dealing with energy and the environment. They had continually refuted any and all claims by the Democrats that global warming was taking place and that there was a hole in the ozone layer covering the earth. They had their own scientists who had opposing views on just about everything to do with the environment. They refused to consider any form of renewable energy. The oil companies and their millions in contributions saw to that. Now they had their way. They could drill for oil anywhere in the RSA that their little hearts desired - and they did. The oil companies loved it. They were in heaven. Coal companies could continue to blow up mountains looking for coal - and they did. Lumber companies could cut down all the trees they wanted - and they did.

It wasn't long after the division of the States that the Environmental Protection Agency was dissolved. Corporations no longer had to worry about how much pollution they put into the air. There was no one to monitor it. Soon after that, the Endangered Species Act was repealed. The consensus, among Republican lawmakers, was that God (nature) would take care of the animals and the environment.. Their children and grandchildren could always look in books, see movies, watch television, or search the internet, to find out about any species that no longer existed.

Recycling was not a big thing in the RSA. Now that the Democrats were not weighing in on their conscience, it was easy for the Republicans to forego the trouble of recycling. They felt that would be anti-business. Why take jobs away from all those people who work to manufacture new products by reusing recycled products? Of course, many new landfills had to be created constantly.

Besides oil and coal energy, nuclear energy was important in the RSA after the split. Three new nuclear facilities were build by the year 2015. A nuclear waste site was set up in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia and one in

West Texas. The citizens of those States objected, of course, but to no avail. The Mormons who had moved to West Texas were particularly unhappy.

After the split, any and all areas in the RSA were open for drilling oil. That included state and national parks and all offshore possibilities. In spite of that, the RSA still depended heavily on the oil from the Middle East, especially Saudi Arabia. The DSA let the RSA know, in no uncertain terms, that absolutely no drilling would occur in the DSA even though the leaders of the RSA begged and pleaded. The problem with foreign oil was that more and more of it was being used by countries such as China and India, which were using more oil with every passing year because of the growing number of automobile drivers in those countries. By the year 2017, the leaders of the RSA, with the help of oil experts, could see that they had to begin moving toward renewable energy. By that time most of the countries in the world, with the exception of the oil-rich countries, had made significant progress in the renewable energy field. The RSA had stubbornly refused to accept the fact that it to had to succumb to the idea that the Democrats had tried to get them to accept for decades.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

HEALTHCARE

Universal healthcare was available to the citizens of the Great Britain, France, and Canada by the year 2008. There was, however, no universal healthcare in the United States of America. The citizens of that great country were still at the mercy of the health insurance companies and the prescription drug companies, both of which were regularly contributing heavily to the candidates for public office who supported them. The broken record continued to play the same notes over and over again. The people who couldn't afford to contribute to the campaigns of public officials got left behind in another area of life.

The Democrats tried to pass a bill that would have provided healthcare for all Americans as far back as the 1990s when the U.S. had a Democrat for a President. The Republicans, however, saw to it that the bill never got started. They certainly did not want a Democrat getting credit for providing the first universal healthcare coverage bill for Americans. The odd thing about that was that when, a few years later, the Republicans controlled both houses of Congress and the Presidency, no attempt was made by them to pass healthcare legislation.

DSA

After the split, it took only a couple of years for the DSA to pass a healthcare bill that covered all Americans who needed it. Wealthy citizens, and others who already had a healthcare plan, could keep the one they had. People still had a choice about which doctor they saw. Every DSA citizen, who earned under \$100,000.00 a year, had to pay into the healthcare system. A group plan, such as that, does not work unless everyone participates. How much a

person paid into the system depended upon the income of that person or family. The plan also made prescriptions available at affordable prices. As with any group endeavor, some people always tend to reap the benefits more than others. In the health plan the people who had the most health problems received more health care than healthy people.

An important part of the new universal healthcare plan was that any and all pre-existing conditions were covered. That was what insurance companies, for years, had used as a means of not covering people who needed the coverage.

All persons, going into any medical or dental field of study, could easily qualify for stipends. That program significantly lowered the amount of debt that was usually accumulated by those people. Still, medical professionals in the DSA did not earn what the same professionals earned in the RSA. That was a sticking point for some of them. A few decided to move to the RSA where they could earn much more money.

RSA

Healthcare in the RSA, after the division of the States, remained pretty much the same as it had been prior to the split. People had to purchase their own health insurance from companies unless it was provided by their employer. Employers were not required to pay for the healthcare insurance of their employees. The RSA did not want to hamper the small business owners with such a requirement. Many people obviously could not afford health insurance. For those people there were still healthcare clinics which were not expensive but it was very difficult for them if there was a major health problem. Most of the burden of healthcare for the poor was put on religion based hospitals and clinics. Naturally, the healthcare professionals, the prescription drug companies, and the health related insurance companies, were happy about the RSA healthcare system.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

REPUBLICANS AND BIG GOVERNMENT

The main ploy used by the Republicans to sway voters was always that the Democrats were in favor of 'big government'. That was supposed to mean that the Democrats were for the federal government making decisions for the American people that should have been made by the individual states. The 'states rights' issue was first used in the 1800s when the southern states wanted the right to own slaves and thought the federal government did not have the right to tell them not to. Many southerners believed the War Between the States was about 'states rights', not slavery.

There were many inconsistencies about the way Republicans thought about 'big government' and 'states rights'. A federal government should not collect taxes to provide programs for the poor and minorities but it is okay for the government to control a woman's body by forcing her to carry a pregnancy to term when she, for some reason, does not want to. A federal government should not be able to tell a person where and when he can smoke cigarettes, but it is okay for the government to tell a person what books he can read or what television show he can watch. A federal government should not be able to force a school to take African American students, but it is okay to force American taxpayers to pay for vouchers for private schools even though the average student could not afford to attend most private schools even with a voucher. A federal government should not be allowed to keep prayer out of schools but it is okay for that same government to force non-Christians, in a public school, to listen to a prayer each day, to have to be taught the Biblical version of the creation of the universe, and to have to say a pledge to their country every day that contains the words, 'under God'.

It all boiled down to this. The Republicans favored 'big government' when the control agreed with their stance on that particular subject. When it did not agree with their ideology, it was wrong.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

EDUCATION

The ranking of the United States educational system when compared with other countries around the world was not good in the beginning of the 21st century. The average public school dropout rate was high and the average public school graduation rate was not high. Private schools, because they had their pick of students, showed much better results. When the economy was bad, the first place that some lawmakers looked was to education. What could they cut? What difference did it make if a teacher had 35 students in her class or if she had 20? How could they know unless they had actually had to stand in front of a group of students and try to teach them something?

DSA

Most of the emphasis in education, in the DSA, was placed on public schools after the division of the States. Instead of dividing the education funds between public and private schools, the DSA lawmakers decided to put all their resources into making public schools successful. Public school administrators, teachers, students, and parents, couldn't have been happier. Private schools continued to exist but could not be funded by vouchers or government money.

A national lottery was established in the year 2011. Ninety percent of the proceeds from that lottery went to education. That was quite a lot of money. The fact that most of the income from the lottery was going to education somewhat appeased those citizens who were anti-lottery for one reason or another. Cuts in defense spending also allowed the DSA to spend more money on education.

Changes that were made in education significantly raised educational standards and the success rate of the students. The maximum number of students allowed in a classroom was reduced to 20. More of the brightest university students were attracted to the teaching profession because of higher pay and better teaching conditions. In addition to the required courses such as mathematics, English, science, and social studies, courses of study dealing with things such as drug education, sex education, career education, personal interaction, taking care of the environment, critical thinking skills, and problem solving, were added to the curriculum.

Sex education took place in grades k through 12. By the time a student had graduated high school, he or she knew almost everything there was to know about sex education. They knew about the body and how it functions. They knew about all types of birth control and success rates. Students were taught that engaging in sexual intercourse was not something a person does without thinking of possible consequences. They were taught about babies, how they are born, and what a tremendous responsibility it is to take care of one. They learned the importance of being honest with their parents about their sexuality. They were taught about abortion and how it should be the last resort after all other options have been considered. Sexual persuasion was also discussed. Students learned that some people may choose to have sex with someone of their own gender. It is just a sexual preference, nothing more, and those people should be treated the same as anyone else. Contraceptives were available in the restrooms at all secondary schools.

Homeroom discussion groups* were added for every school, k through 12. Each year of a student's school life he or she would be placed in a discussion group which he would be in for the entire year. That group would meet one period every day. A teacher, principal, coach, or counselor would be the leader of the same group for the entire year. It was somewhat like a homeroom period. In the group, students would be encouraged to talk about themselves and their lives and learn about the lives of other students in the group. As each school year progressed, every student would eventually develop friends within his or her group. Each would have someone to talk to about her problems, whether they be school related or family related. That would be that student's family away from home. Many students were in need of such a family.

By the year 2015, the average school dropout rate had improved from forty percent to two percent. The main reason cited by students for remaining in school was the friendships they had built inside their discussion groups. They had a support group every year and it strengthened as their school life progressed.

* Schools Without Failure by Dr. William Glasser, 1969

RSA

Once the division took place, more and more private schools, church, and secular, opened in the RSA. Each family was allowed a thousand dollar voucher for each school-aged child each year. Most private schools, however, were very expensive and one thousand dollars was just a drop in the bucket for those schools. Also, private schools could be selective about the students who were accepted into their schools. Academic achievement and skill were an important part of the equation. As the years progressed, the public schools became more a place for the poor, mostly minority, kids while the wealthy kids went to private secular or church schools. The voucher money meant that there was less money for the public schools. The Republicans had been trying to phase out the public schools for years because of their secularism. In other words, they did not force children to pray every day.

After the repeal of the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment to the Constitution, dealing with the division of church and state, public schools began to teach Christianity. The school day was begun with a prayer. Creationism and evolution were taught side by side.

Subjects taught in the schools were entirely the basics such as mathematics, English, social studies, and science. There was no sex education. Students were taught to abstain from all sexual activity until marriage. They continued to be taught the parts of the human body in biology classes but that was the extent of their sex education.

There were no class size limits in public schools and the teachers continued to be poorly paid. Private school teachers had much smaller class sizes and were paid salaries that were competitive with those in corporations. Teachers in public schools obviously had to be in the profession because they loved teaching and not mainly because of the money they earned. But then, that had always been the case for public school teachers.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

ABORTION

The United States Supreme Court, in 1973, in the case of *Roe versus Wade*, ruled that a Texas statute forbidding abortion except when necessary to save the life of the mother, was unconstitutional. The Court arrived at its decision by concluding that the issue of abortion rights falls under the right to privacy. The Court held that the fetus is not a person under the Constitution and that a right to privacy exists and that includes the right of a woman to have an abortion.

Studies at the time, showed a distinct drop in the crime rate in the U.S. after the legalization of abortion. The studies concluded that unwanted children were more likely to commit crime.

For many voters, after the *Roe v. Wade* decision, their major focus concerning candidates for office was their stand on abortion. Most Republicans took an anti-abortion stance. They called their stance 'pro-life' instead of anti-abortion but since most of those same Republicans were in favor of the death penalty, that 'pro-life' stance was a misnomer. Democrats, for the most part, looked for a candidate who espoused pro-choice views. Ones who were in favor of a woman's right to choose what happened to her body.

Members of radical anti-abortion groups would regularly taunt women seeking abortion at clinics. They would also chain themselves to doors of the clinics to prevent women from entering. Worst of all, some of the doctors who performed abortions at those clinics, and were always in danger, were actually murdered by anti-abortion zealots.

DSA

In the DSA, after the division of the States, abortion became legal in almost all instances. The fetus was declared to be not a person until out of the womb. The decision of whether or not to get an abortion was left entirely up to the woman who had been impregnated. Husbands, boyfriends, and family members, should be consulted but the buck always stopped with the woman. Contraception was highly encouraged, and through the years became much less inconvenient and safer. Once a woman was pregnant, there were still times when a woman's baby was going to be born with some kind of deformity or illness. In those instances, abortion was considered a necessity by most women. The injection of k through 12 sex education did much to decrease unwanted pregnancies. By the year 2011, there were morning after pills that women could take to prevent unwanted pregnancies. The entire process became much safer and hassle-free.

The division of the States meant that the danger for doctors performing abortions or prescribing abortion drugs was over. That was a huge relief for everyone concerned. No more demonstrations in front of clinics. No more people chaining themselves to abortion clinic doors and no more taunting of women wanting information about abortion and family planning. More importantly, no more abortion doctor murders.

An issue that had become related to the abortion issue was that of stem-cell research. That research was used to find ways to cure illnesses and diseases. Even though the stem-cells were taken from dead fetuses, the Republicans, supported by anti-abortion groups, claimed the whole process should be illegal and tried to legislate laws against it. After the division, stem-cell research made giant strides in the study and cure of some diseases.

RSA

Within a couple of years after the division of the States, a test case was sent to the Supreme Court of the RSA. The Court overturned the *Roe v. Wade* decision and declared all abortions illegal. It did not matter whether the woman had been raped or whether the pregnancy was the result of incest. The woman, and the person who helped with the abortion, if there was one, were liable to be sent to prison for committing a felony.

Abstinence until marriage was taught in schools and encouraged by the Government and churches. Contraception devices were only sold in drug stores to people 18 years of age and older. A doctor's prescription was needed for contraception pills.

As would be expected, the anti-abortion law affected the poor much more seriously than the wealthy. That had been the case before *Roe v. Wade* and became the norm again. After the invention of the morning after pill, which would prevent abortions, the black marketing of those pills became very popular in the RSA. That made it very difficult for the RSA lawmakers and

enforcers to find out who had an abortion. It was difficult to hide a pregnancy, however. The price of those black market pills was exorbitant, of course. Still, in many cases it took the need for a doctor out of the equation.

Stem-cell research also fell victim to the abortion decision. It became illegal in the RSA soon after the split. The citizens of the Republican States of America would have to depend on the DSA and other countries for any cures that would be found using the stem-cell research.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION

Immigration had been an on-going problem in the United States ever since Mexicans had been illegally crossing the border from Mexico into the U.S. The Mexican Government had done nothing to make its citizens want to stay there. There was no work and the economy was weak. It was another one of those scenarios in which the wealthy people continue to get richer and the poor continue to sink on the economic ladder. To make matters worse, some employers in the U.S. would hire many of the Mexican illegals because they would work for much less money than the American workers.

Over-population had been a growing problem in America even before the split between the States, but afterwards, with only half of the area with which to work, it was definitely a problem to be watched closely.

DSA

Absolutely no non-citizens were allowed to become permanent residents of the DSA after the division of the States and the moves from one new country to the other were completed. Time had to be allowed for everyone to get settled and for the Government to figure out how much land, and other resources, was available for new settlement. That lasted for approximately three years after the split. Any illegals who entered the DSA, and were caught, were sent back to their respective countries. That specifically meant the southern border of the U.S. As would be expected, many non-citizens tried to take advantage of the confusion, prior, during, and after the division of the States. Any non-citizens who could prove that they were in the United States legally before the actual split, were allowed to go through the process of becoming a citizen. After the initial three years, illegals were allowed to stay in the DSA if

they had a job and it was a job that the employer had tried to fill with an American citizen but had failed.

Other population controls were put into place. Families were only allowed to have a total of two children of their own. They could adopt as many as they could accommodate. Only children born in the United States, or ones who were naturalized citizens, could be adopted. The people of the DSA were told that those guidelines could possibly be changed in a few years after the population became more stable. That hope somewhat soothed those who were vehemently opposed to the new law.

RSA

The RSA also placed restrictions on non-citizens entering their country after the split. Their restrictions were based more on the religious affiliation of the people wanting to enter. After all, the RSA had declared itself a 'Christian Nation' within two years of the division of the States. Although some non-Christians were allowed to enter the country, they had to be able to prove that they already had relatives living in the RSA and had to swear that they were willing to live in a 'Christian Nation'.

The RSA had strict border laws allowing absolutely no Mexican nationals to enter their country illegally. Border shootings picked up after the division of the States. The Government of the RSA turned a blind eye to the shootings. Privately, they might have felt that was a good way to scare the Mexicans into not wanting to cross the border. There were still employers in the RSA who wanted to hire the illegals because of having to pay them less, but not many Mexicans were able to get across the border and, after a while, fewer of them wanted to try. The Mexicans also were willing to do work, such as orchard picking, that many Americans would not do.

No restrictions were placed on families regarding the number of children they could have. That idea was thought to be socialistic by the RSA lawmakers and people. They accused the DSA of again allowing 'big government' to take priority over individual rights. The adoption policy in the RSA, however, was very similar to that of the DSA. Adopted children had to be American citizens or naturalized citizens.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

LEGAL AND PUNITIVE SYSTEMS

Prison overcrowding had been an ongoing problem in the United States by the time the division of the States took place. Early in the 21st century, the U.S. had a larger prison population than any other country in the world. It had 700,000 more inmates than China, even with its authoritarian government. It seemed that prisoners were being sentenced to longer terms for their offenses. Many of those crimes were ‘victimless’ crimes. That is, they were related to drug use or prostitution. Democrats always seemed to be on the side of treating prisoners more like human beings and trying to rehabilitate them. Republicans usually were in favor of stricter penalties for prisoners and not rehabilitation, but punishment. Republicans tended to favor capital punishment and Democrats tended to be opposed to it. That was not an easy decision. There were many viewpoints to consider. Chief among them was the rights of the victims who, in many instances had problems dealing with a dead relative and a live killer.

DSA

Capital punishment, as mentioned above, was the main area of contention between the Republicans and Democrats insofar as the punitive system was concerned. In post-division DSA, capital punishment was no longer an option. It was declared illegal a couple of years after the split. The harshest punishment a convicted criminal could receive was life without parole. That sentence was given only to those deemed to have had no chance of rehabilitation whatsoever. All other prisoners received rehabilitation. The thinking was that it was asking for failure to allow prisoners to get out of prison without rehabilitating them first. Without rehabilitation, there was a good chance the

felon would revert back to the behavior that got him put in prison in the first place. That could turn out to be an endless cycle and wasted prison time and money.

All inmates who were to be rehabilitated received training in vocational areas and in basic school courses. Each had a choice as to what kind of work training she would receive, but she also received counseling about what kind of training would put her in the best position to find a job when released. All inmates were required to, at the very least, earn a high school diploma or a Graduate Equivalency Degree - GED, before being released. Many of them earned college degrees while incarcerated.

As would be expected, considering the aforementioned facts about how the penal system changed under the DSA Government, the recidivism rate dropped considerably from what it had been in the U.S. In fact, by the year 2016, it was less than five percent.

All of the citizens in the DSA were not happy about the way the penal system was operated in the DSA. Some favored the death penalty and many thought more punishment was needed. After the system had been in effect for a number of years, however, and people could see the recidivism results, attitudes changed. The Government was not having to spend the money to build new prisons and it was not having to pay for extended prison lodging for prisoners.

RSA

Several crimes could be punishable by the death penalty in the RSA after the division of the States. First degree murder, of course, was one of those crimes. First degree murder could include, depending on the circumstances, abortion. The doctor and the woman involved were both liable for that punishment. Rape, in many cases, was also punishable by the death penalty.

Sentences in the RSA tended to be very harsh. There was little sympathy for convicted felons. People in the RSA laughed about how the DSA 'coddled' its prisoners. There was little rehabilitation taking place in the RSA prisons. It was nearly all punishment. The RSA Government felt that its citizens wanted a criminal to suffer for what he or she had done. As a result of that ideology, the repeat offender percentage was very high. The building of new prisons was an ongoing process and cost the RSA a huge amount of money. Prisoners tended to be unhappy about the way they were treated and, as a result, there were many demonstrations and riots. No changes were made, however.

CHAPTER TWENTY

SEX LAWS

DSA

The world's oldest profession was legalized in the DSA in 2013. Lawmakers decided that prostitution was going to take place whether or not it was illegal. They felt they might as well make it legal so it could be taxed. Laws were also passed that protected prostitutes and those who frequented them. Prostitutes had to be at least eighteen years of age and had to enter into the profession of their own free will. Affidavits affirming the aforementioned had to be kept on file at the brothel. Forced prostitution, at any age, was against the law. Brothels could not be located within the city limits of any town or city. Regular checkups were required and recorded. Books had to be kept of money taken in so that discernible profits could be taxed. The names of brothel clients was not kept publicly. The citizens of each county in each state could vote to disallow brothels in their county. The law did not allow 'street walkers'.

There were, of course, still stores where one could buy sex toys, birth control devices, and pornographic materials. Those could also be ordered through the internet. There were still strip clubs but they were not allowed to make sexual intercourse a part of their offerings. Individual counties, again, had the right to exclude any of the above by popular vote.

No laws were made or kept that dealt with sex between consenting adults. What people wanted to do in privacy should not be the concern of the Government or anyone else.

Even though counties had the right to restrict the aforementioned sex services, there was an important consideration in said restrictions. Fifty percent of all federal tax money collected from brothels was given back to the county

from which it was collected. That money could be used by each county according to its needs. Counties that disallowed brothels did not receive any of that tax money.

Statistics, gathered after the first year following the legalization of prostitution, showed a significant drop in the number of reported rapes. Many people said that showed that rape was not just about power but also about the act of sexual intercourse itself. Most womens organizations, of course, angrily disputed that claim.

A law was passed by the DSA lawmakers in the year 2011, that legitimized same-sex marriages. Those couples were given the same rights as heterosexual couples. Individual states had the right to disallow them in their particular states but most of them agreed with the decision. Same sex oriented couples were also allowed to adopt children under the same rules as heterosexual couples.

RSA

The old laws concerning sex remained in effect in the RSA after the split, and some new ones were added as the years passed. All prostitution, in any form, was against the law. Anal sex was against God's law and the RSA's law whether it was done in private or in public. Strip clubs and stores selling products related to sex had to be privatized. Those products, of course, could be ordered through the internet and that was difficult to monitor. Persons frequenting strip clubs and sex stores had to be eighteen years of age or older. There were illegal brothels if a person knew where to look and had the money to frequent them. Many people, mostly the well-to-do, traveled across the border to the DSA where prostitution was legal. Later, when they had to lease an electric vehicle to enter the DSA that trip became more expensive. Some entrepreneurs in the DSA were smart enough to build brothels near the border to take advantage of the RSA traffic.

Laws relating to same-sex marriages remained the same in the RSA after the split. They were not allowed or recognized. Using the Bible as a reference, the RSA said that marriage was meant to be between a man and a woman only. Some homosexual couples crossed the border to get married but on returning to the RSA found that their marriage was not recognized as legal in the RSA.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

DRUGS

In spite of the everlasting 'war on drugs' that the United States Government had fought in America and other countries, the sale and use of such never seemed to wane. The only thing that occurred was that the popularity of drugs would change from one type to another. By the year 2008, the main problem had shifted from illicit drugs to prescription drug abuse. Prescription drugs were not screened as tightly in nearby countries such as Mexico and Canada. Also, they were not as expensive, which led many Americans to go to those countries, and others, to get their prescription drugs. Illicit drugs such as crack cocaine and marijuana continued to be brought into the U.S. on a regular basis. Mexico had lost complete control of its drug war and that problem became a problem for the United States.

DSA

In the year 2013, a bill was passed by the House and Senate of the Democrat States of America, and signed into law by the President, that legalized the sale and use of marijuana. Much research had been done that showed that the use of marijuana did not necessarily lead to the use of any other drug. Also, the medicinal uses of the drug had been expanded considerably. Ingesting marijuana through the use of food and drink became more popular than smoking it. That method of marijuana use made it much more popular among people who did not like the smoking part of it. The law did not legalize any other drug. People were allowed to grow their own crop but were not allowed to sell it unless they obtained a license. The same sales tax that applied to alcohol and tobacco also applied to the sale of marijuana.

Driving while under the influence of the drug was an offense just as was driving under the influence of alcohol.

The use or abuse of any drugs, whether illicit or prescription, fell under the realm of misdemeanors. The law, however, also forced any person committing such a misdemeanor to seek help. The Government of the DSA provided free help for such people.

RSA

Anti-drug laws in the RSA were tightened after the split. The punishment for the use and/or sale of any unauthorized drugs became more harsh. That included prescription drugs. Because of that, many RSA citizens would cross the border into the DSA just to take advantage of the drug laws in that country. Inspections for drugs in vehicles returning to the RSA from the DSA were as tight as the inspection for illegal guns going into the DSA from the RSA.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

CENSORSHIP

The control of information and ideas circulated within a society has been a hallmark of dictatorships throughout history. There is no better method of controlling the citizenry, and that is the aim of any person or group of people wanting complete power over the people. It is the exact opposite of a free society. Hitler was a prime example of a person controlling a society. He, with his writings and inflammatory orations, led the German people to believe that all their ills could be blamed on the Jews. The German economy, at the time, was in terrible shape and the people were ready to believe anyone with a palatable idea.

Governments of other countries have, at times, withheld information from their citizens that might give their people cause to doubt actions taken by such government. The excuse for that action is usually that the average person is not able to understand the nuances of diplomacy and governmental secrets.

Parents, of course, have the right to decide the extent of exposure their children have to books, magazines, newspapers, television, the web, and the movies. It is not only their right, but their responsibility. That is censorship within families.

DSA

Censorship in the Democrat States of America remained fairly stable after the split. There was much less talk of censorship since most of that rhetoric had been coming from the Republicans. In the DSA, most censorship was left up to parents and individuals. There were still laws concerning sex and nudity of children below the age of sixteen. No books were banned. No other media was banned. The internet was available to anyone who had the means to access

it. The Government left it up to the parents to decide what their children watched and read.

The only secrets the Government kept were those that, if disclosed, might put the people of the DSA in jeopardy. Almost everything the Government did was televised, including the Supreme Court cases. Openness of Government business, lawmakers thought, would increase the trust of the people in their elected officials.

RSA

There was quite a bit of censorship going on in the RSA after the split. Most of that came as a result of the influence of religious leaders. The bulk of it concerned school-aged children, pre- school through the twelfth grade. In school and public libraries, books were banned that dealt with homosexuality, racism, witchcraft, non-Christian religious ideas, non-religious ideas, drugs, and environmental issues, among others. That was the Government's 'get them while they are young, before they can think for themselves' program. Anything that was considered anti-Government was taken off the shelves. There was also a list of offensive words and phrases that were banned. Proof of their use would cause a person to be charged with a misdemeanor. Although the Government tried to control what people read and heard on the internet it was an impossible task. There were too many technically wise people who could access anything on the web.

Nothing, considered to be pornographic, was allowed to be sold in the RSA, but if a person had any in his home, it was allowed, but frowned upon. Child pornography, however, as in the DSA, was not allowed, publicly or privately.

One southern state school board, notorious for changing history books, continued that pattern, but even more profusely, after the division of the States. That board felt that nothing in a U.S. history book should contain anything that was not pro-American, whether it was a historical fact or not. They changed the history books to read that the South was right in the Civil War. Science books were revised to include creationism.

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

GUN LAWS

The argument between the gun control Democrats and the National Rifle Association supported Republicans had always hinged, primarily, on the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution. The problem with that argument, claimed most Democrats, was that when that Amendment was added to the Constitution, the Militia of the soon to be country of America was made up of volunteers, and it was important that all citizens be armed. That reasoning had long since passed. In spite of that, the thinking of the Republicans was that any gun laws, no matter how unobtrusive, would have a domino effect and soon no one would be allowed to own a gun. Then, according to them, only the criminals would have guns.

DSA

The DSA passed new gun legislation, without Republican interference, soon after the division of the States. Those laws were as follows:

1. All weapons must be registered in the county in which the owner resides. If a person moves, he must re-register.
2. Guns can be purchased from an individual, a gun store, or at a gun show.
3. There is a 12 day waiting period for the purchase of guns at any store. Stores are required to do a complete security screening of anyone trying to purchase a gun.
4. No one, except an officer of the law or a licensed security guard on duty, is allowed to carry a weapon on his person, concealed or visible.

- If a person has a job wherein he absolutely must be armed, he may apply for a license. An example would be an armored car guard.
5. Unloaded weapons may be temporarily transported in a person's vehicle.
 6. No ordinary citizen is allowed to own an automatic or assault weapon.
 7. No caliber higher than .45 is allowed for anyone other than the military and law enforcement officers.
 8. All weapons, in private residences, or establishments where children under the age of 16 reside, must have safety locks on them.
 9. Convicted felons are not allowed to own guns and cannot reside in an abode where any weapons are kept.
 10. Anyone who is a registered gun owner is required to take an intensive four hour gun safety class.
 11. Gun shows are permitted but have to be closely supervised. Strict records are to be kept of all gun trades and sales so that the owner of a particular gun will always be known. County registration, with legitimate ID, had to be completed before the sale of a gun. Gun purchasers had to wait 12 days before picking up the gun they bought.

Some of these laws were in place before the split between the RSA and DSA. By the year 2013, however, all were mandated by law in the Democrat States of America. There was some dissension from gun owners regarding some of the laws, especially those concerning gun shows, but that died down after a year or two when everyone got used to the new laws. The gun show operators were not happy about having to keep records of all their sales and trades and they certainly were not happy about the 12 day waiting period. Police officers, naturally, were very happy about most of the new laws because they wouldn't have to worry as much about people carrying concealed or visible weapons or having automatic or assault weapons.

Many children had died as a result of weapons that did not have safety locks installed on them. Law number 9 did much to prevent accidental gun deaths by children.

Thanks to law number 3, a distraught person, thinking about killing himself or others, had to wait and think for 12 days before he could purchase a gun. That waiting period could make a huge difference. A person's thinking and emotions could change dramatically in a few hours, much less 12 days.

RSA

In the RSA, after the division of the States, any person over the age of 18, except a convicted felon, was allowed to carry a concealed weapon almost anywhere. Establishments were allowed to outlaw them and, of course, Governmental buildings were off limits for weapons. No license was necessary, but the person must have had an identification card showing his or her age.

Assault and automatic weapons were legal in the RSA. They were, however, not legal for hunting. That law was a real headache for law enforcement officers but they, of course, were also allowed to have those same automatic weapons.

There was no waiting period for buying guns but a criminal background check was mandatory. That usually took less than fifteen minutes. The gun show proprietors really liked that law because it placed no restrictions on the sale and trade of guns whatsoever.

Parents were encouraged to put gun locks on their guns if there were children living in their home but that was not required by law. Accidental gun deaths involving children occurred frequently.

Most of those groups known as extremist were overjoyed with the new gun laws in the RSA. Not that it was unexpected. That is the main reason those groups chose to stay in, or move to, the RSA. No sooner did the new laws take effect than violence prone members of some of those groups began stockpiling all sorts of weapons and ammunition. They still were still a long way from being pleased with everything the RSA Government did and were arming themselves for an eventual revolution if it came to that.

Gun legislation was one of the major areas in which the Republicans said that 'big government' should not stick its nose. After the division of the States, they pretty much took the Federal Government out of the equation.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

EUTHANASIA

The term 'euthanasia' was taken from a Greek word meaning 'happy death'. Later, the term came to mean 'physician assisted suicide'. At the time of the division of the States, only one state had legalized euthanasia. Opinions on that subject were about as divided as they could get. There were some members of each political party who were for the legalization of euthanasia and some against it. More Republicans were against it because of the religious factor. According to the Bible, it was a sin for a person to take his own life, regardless of the circumstances.

Suicide was an important option for people who had some type of terminal disease and were enduring a painful existence or for people who had relatives or friends who had a terminal illness and were not capable of making such a decision. For those people, euthanasia seemed to be a viable option.

DSA

The Government of the Democrat States of America passed a law allowing euthanasia in the year 2013. Polls were taken before passage of the law. Seventy percent of the respondents voted in favor of the law. A person requesting 'physician assisted suicide' had to be pronounced sound of mind before being allowed to make such an important decision. In cases where the person was unable, for one reason or another, to make the decision himself, it was left up to his nearest relative or relatives. If no relatives were available, the decision was left up to the doctor in charge of the patient. Many people would sign 'power of attorney' certificates and give them to their relatives long before death was even a consideration.

There were still many people in the DSA who disagreed, strongly, with the new law. The objections of most of those people were based on religious convictions. Some Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, and Catholics, joined the Christians in objecting to the new law. However, they had to accept the wishes of the majority of citizens in the DSA.

The process of suicide became much simpler when a suicide pill was invented in 2014. After taking the pill, a person would just go into a peaceful sleep and never wake up. A person had to have a doctor's prescription to be able to obtain the pill. There was also a two week waiting period before one could get the pill. That helped prevent suicides based on snap decisions.

Although not the reason for the passage of the law, the healthcare system of the DSA saved millions of dollars each year after the law became effective.

RSA

Euthanasia was never allowed in the RSA at any time. The strong Christian influence in the RSA kept the issue from even being discussed seriously. Punishment for any person assisting someone with suicide was severe. There were still suicides in the RSA and there were also 'physician assisted suicides' done secretly. After the suicide pill came into existence, it was sold via the black market in the RSA. As with other life decisions, the well-to-do again had many more options than the other ninety-nine percent of the population.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

ISRAEL

Arabs in Palestine and surrounding countries bitterly opposed pre-World War I, and post-War proposals to divide Palestine into Arab and Jewish sectors. In 1947, the United Nations voted to partition Palestine. In 1948, the Jewish National Council proclaimed the State of Israel. The United States recognized Israel within hours after that proclamation. The day after the proclamation Israel was invaded by Arab forces from the countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. After the cease-fire agreement in 1949, Israel had increased its territory. That short history explains the hatred of the Arabs (Muslims) for the Jewish people. To add insult to injury, the Jews have been continuing to expand their territory through the years. The fact of America's support for Israel all the years after its proclamation of statehood had not helped the U.S. in relations with the Muslim world. In fact, their hatred for America, in the early 21st century, was almost equal to their hatred for Israel.

DSA

The Democrats were very supportive of the State of Israel from its creation in 1948. More so than the Republicans. Every year, Congress allocated millions of dollars in aid to the new country. Later, close to the end of the 20th century, the Democrats became more interested in the plight of the Palestinians and, even though their support for Israel remained high, there was a strong desire to help seek a fair solution to the problems facing that region. A powder keg anywhere in the world could have dire consequences for the DSA and other countries.

After the division of the States, the DSA significantly cut its monetary aid to Israel and put pressure on them to solve their problems with the Arab Palestinians peacefully. In the year 2012, a two-year time limit was placed on Israel. If after the two-year limit, an amicable agreement between the Jews and the Palestinians had not been reached, all monetary aid to Israel was to cease. That, of course, did not sit well with the Jewish people in Israel nor the ones living in the DSA. It was the goal of the Democrat States of America, however, to have friendly relations with all the different peoples of the world, including Muslims. The main reason Muslims hated Americans for many decades, was because of their blind support for the State of Israel.

RSA

The Republicans, on the other hand, were not as supportive of the State of Israel at the beginning of their history. Powered mainly by Christians, the Republicans were not sympathetic to the Jewish people, even though they certainly were not enamored by the Palestinian Muslim Arabs. In the latter part of the 20th century things changed. After the Six-Day War in 1967, the Republicans began to see that Israel could be a strong ally in that area of the world in the face of growing threats from the Arabs.

The Republican States of America continued their support for Israel after the split. Their need for an ally in that region was as strong as ever, especially after the RSA removed itself from the United Nations and NATO. Even though Israel was not in agreement with that decision, it continued its strong relations with the RSA. The withdrawal of some of the support it had been receiving from the DSA made it that much more dependent on the support of the RSA.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE - SPORTS

The division of the States reeked havoc on the sports situation that had been the norm in the United States almost since its inception. Professional championships in all sports, collegiate competition in all sports and, on a smaller scale, high school sports competitions, were put on hold. Should their still be competition between the different teams even though they were in different countries? That was the question that had to be answered by the sports leaders, the political leaders, and the citizens of each new country.

The first year after the split, sports competition, on all levels, was held only within each new country. Negotiations were taking place during that year to try to work out details that would provide for inter-country competition. There was no doubt that the athletes were in favor of such competition. The citizens were also much in favor of it. They missed the rivalries that had been so entertaining throughout the decades.

In the year 2013, the details of the inter-country competition, in all sports, on all levels, had been completed, and games began. High school competition was held mainly between schools that were less than one hundred miles apart. That meant that only border state schools were involved in that competition. The cost of transportation was an inhibiting factor.

On the collegiate level, although the individual conferences were comprised of teams within each country, there was inter-conference competition between conference teams in the DSA and RSA. Things were getting back to normal, somewhat. At the end of each sports season, however, the NCAA champion was chosen in each country. The two NCAA champions then would play for the championship of both countries. Playing sites would rotate between the DSA and the RSA. Officials, also, would switch. In games played in the DSA, RSA officials would work the games, and vice-versa.

Professional team competition between the two countries was similar to the collegiate system in that all the teams in each conference were in the same country. Similar to the collegiate system, a sports champion, in each professional sport, was crowned in each separate country at the end of each season. As in the collegiate level, the two champions from each country played for a trophy, and bragging rights, at the end of the season.

It is needless to write that the competition between the two countries was fierce and, on occasion, got out of hand. Players got into it and the fans, at times, got into it. In the end, however, the competition endured.

The status of Black Americans, who had, for decades been considered to be among the best in the sports in which they participated, remained fairly stable during the first few years after the division of the States. The demise of the public school system in the RSA and the rise of private schools, however, instigated a process by which more African Americans were moving to the DSA. Most could not afford, even with a voucher, to attend a private school, even a religious one. Naturally, this transformation had a bad effect on the amount of athletic talent that was available to sports teams on all levels in the RSA. Although many schools in the RSA saw to it that the best Black athletes received stipends and scholarships, many were still lost to the DSA.

All of the aforementioned became academic when the DSA closed its borders to all but renewable energy vehicles in the year 2016. The RSA, naturally, did not have enough renewable energy vehicles to provide transportation for its sports teams into the DSA. There was much anger and resentment felt by the sports community, the citizens, and the political leaders of the RSA because of that renewable energy decision which ended inter-country competition. There was also some resentment felt in the DSA, but the value of cleaner air was more important to the citizens of that country, and, they had been warned in advance that the time was coming when that decision would be made. Many hoped that perhaps the RSA would do more to move toward renewable energy so that the sports competitions could be renewed. The love of oil apparently was stronger than the love of sports competition for the RSA.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

TOBACCO

In spite of all the negative infomercials about the use of tobacco in cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and chewing, its use in the 21st century still seemed as popular as ever. Most people who habitually used tobacco felt they were destined to die sometime so they might as well die doing something they enjoyed. Second-hand smoke had received almost as much negative publicity. The main emphasis, as far as second-hand smoke was concerned, was placed on children who had the misfortune of living in a house where a smoker was present. They obviously had no choice in their place of residence.

DSA

Every effort was made, in the DSA, to persuade smokers to quit. Special Government- supported free programs were made available in all major cities in all states in the DSA. Any business, in which the serving or selling of food was the main service, was required by the Federal Government to prohibit smoking within its confines. Government buildings and other business buildings were allowed to have special smoking rooms. Those rooms had to be designed so that the smoke was taken outside, not to another room via a vent. Those same smoking laws applied to marijuana. Any business was allowed to declare itself a non-smoking area. Smoking in a non-smoking area was considered a misdemeanor by law.

Smokers, as a group, were the most costly, as far as the healthcare system of the DSA was concerned. A person who was trying to quit the use of tobacco habit or had quit, received much more treatment than a person who was making no effort. That was an attempt to help individuals and also save the Government quite a bit of money.

RSA

The RSA's opposition to 'big government' intruding into the lives of its citizens was the reason that there were very few laws passed concerning the use of tobacco. Government buildings were the exception. The political leaders in the country felt that any such laws would have to be made by individual states and/or individual businesses. In the end, the individual states followed the lead of the Federal Government and made no laws concerning the use of tobacco. Any business was, however, allowed to prohibit smoking within its confines. There were programs available for smokers who wanted to quit, but those programs were not Government sponsored.

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

REGULATE VERSUS DEREGULATE

In most cases, if all the people in a society treated other people the way they themselves would like to be treated, there would be little need for regulations or rules. That old adage from Confucius made sense. However, there always seem to be those people who, for one reason or another, take advantage of others. Those reasons usually hinge on money. It is because of those people that some government regulation is necessary. Citizen protection is what gave birth to government regulation. No matter what regulations a government imposes on its people, however, they are useless unless they are strictly and equally enforced. If there is just one exception to a rule, that rule is unenforceable.

Examples of areas in which regulations by the Government of the United States of America were present in the early 21st century were food, water, traffic, automobile safety, drugs, imports and exports, and aviation, to name a few. Republicans and Democrats tended to agree on many of the regulations that were in force at that time, especially those concerning the food their citizens consumed and the water they drank. Their major disagreements were in the areas of the environment, the economy, and the industrial complex.

Democrats favored preserving national forests, especially those that were located in national and state parks. Republicans said those regulations hurt the logging and building industries. They felt the trees would eventually replenish themselves.

Democrats favored strict environmental standards for large corporations, some of whom were polluting America's rivers and lakes by dumping waste in them. Some were also putting damaging pollutants in the air. The stance of the Republicans was that those standards stifled the growth of businesses and

corporations. One would wonder whether a business could have grown without polluting America's air and water supply.

Deregulation of the banking industry and Wall Street, as mentioned earlier in this work, were the cause of the economic crash in the early 21st century. That deregulation was the brain child of a Republican Senator and undertaken during the administration of a Republican President. After the banks crashed and had to be bailed out by the Government, strict oversight regulations were put on Wall Street and the banks so that they could not lend money to people, who they knew could not repay their loans.

Democrats were for the protection of endangered species so that future generations of Americans could see and hear them in person. Republicans were opposed to the Endangered Species Act. They repealed the Act not long after the division of the States. They obviously felt that their descendants could find out about those missing species via the internet, movies, television, and books.

Democrats were for the worker's unions because they helped improve working conditions for average workers and also helped workers earn respectable wages. The Republicans were opposed to unions because they felt they placed undue burdens on small business owners and stifled their growth.

After the division of the States, the Democrat States of America continued to regulate in any area in which its citizens needed protection. They were wary, however, of over-regulation and tried not to burden their people and businesses with needless rules and laws.

The Republicans, in keeping with their avowed distaste for the intrusion of 'big government' into the lives of their citizens, deregulated in many areas after the split between the States. As mentioned earlier in this work, they eliminated many of the regulatory agencies that existed prior to the division. Unions were made illegal. Businesses were allowed to take care of their workers on their own, without government interference.

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

2017

The major problem in the Democrat States of American in the year 2017 was trying to get all of the people who wanted to move to the DSA from the RSA moved into the country. It was very difficult to find them jobs and places of residence. The DSA finally had to declare a provisional end to the movement until the process could be stabilized. That decision significantly raised the frustration level of the people wanting to leave the RSA.

Education in the DSA was doing well. The dropout rate was low and the graduation rate was close to ninety-five percent. Money from the lottery had helped the DSA with high teacher pay and low classroom size. The higher teacher pay helped attract better teachers into the profession and the lower class sizes insured that more individual teacher-student contact was taking place.

The teen pregnancy rate was the lowest it had ever been and the abortion rate was also at its lowest point. More family involvement and the public school sex education program were singled out as the most important factors relevant to both of the aforementioned.

The number of inmates in the penal institutions was at an all time low. The recidivism rate in the year 2017 was around six percent. There were more employers willing to give jobs to former inmates because of the good training they had received while in prison. The results of the rehabilitation that took place in the prisons somewhat soothed the attitude of those people who, in the beginning, had trepidations about the rehabilitation over punishment ideology.

Proceeds from the border rental car program had helped put the DSA in the black financially. That money had helped the DSA with the building and maintenance of its highways and bridges and also with the building and maintenance of its government buildings. The people who crossed into the

DSA, as one might imagine, were not enamored by the car rental program. That made crossing the border a costly endeavor for most average RSA citizens.

Tax money derived from the legalization and taxation of prostitution and marijuana helped the DSA keep its sales tax stable and also helped in keeping its federal income tax rates stable. Again, the end result of those two laws helped quell the voices of those who had been opposed to them.

People in the DSA were healthier than ever thanks to the universal healthcare system. Preventative healthcare was a major money saver for the Government. The Government also gave debt-free financial aid to anyone going into the healthcare field. Since the doctors in the DSA, as a rule, did not earn the exorbitant amounts of money that their counterparts in the RSA did, it was important to help them get through school and be debt free when they finished.

The DSA was one hundred percent renewable energy by the end of 2017. Not only that, but there were enough countries that had almost reached that goal that most of the incoming airplanes and ships were also running on renewable energy. Batteries had been improved upon dramatically. The perfection and use of solar and wind energy had also made great strides. The only smoke going into the air was coming from those people who still chose to use tobacco. The air was cleaner than ever and that was a definite boost to the health of all people in the DSA.

The DSA had worked hard to build communication pipelines to many countries that were known to be unfriendly toward the United States before the division of the States. The willingness to communicate with the leaders of ANY country had paid large dividends. The DSA had become known as the new country that would much rather solve problems peacefully than through war.

There were still complaints from people about the 'socialistic' programs that had been installed by the new Government. Some people were opposed to the legalization of marijuana. Some were opposed to the legalization of prostitution. Some thought prisoners should be punished more. Some were opposed to the sex education program in the schools. When push came to shove, however, and when the citizens of the DSA saw and heard about the problems in the RSA, they felt they were lucky to be living where they were.

RSA

Oil was the main topic of conversation among the leaders of the RSA in the year 2017. The end of oil reserves could almost be predicted. That information was not publicized, however. That might have caused nationwide panic. Texas and Louisiana, once oil rich states, began to hoard their remaining oil reserves. Automobile manufacturers began stepping up their manufacturing of renewable energy vehicles but continued to sell gas engine cars and trucks promising customers that they would convert them to renewable energy when

the time came. Gas prices skyrocketed and all but the wealthy were hard pressed to be able to afford to buy the gasoline they needed. Some of the wealthy traveled across the border to the DSA to buy electric cars and trucks. The RSA, again, begged the DSA to allow them to drill for oil and search for coal in the DSA. The DSA, again, refused that request. In an effort to redirect the anger of the RSA citizenry, the RSA publicized the fact that the DSA had denied the request of the RSA for oil and coal exploration. That ploy, to some extent, worked.

One extremist group attacked a DSA border car rental station, killed all of the guards, and stole all of the rental vehicles. Leaders of the RSA did nothing to try to find out who was involved in that incident. The general feeling was that the DSA had brought that action on itself. The DSA beefed up its border security at all of its borders after the robbery and killings. Regular armed forces personnel were used in addition to the national guard forces. The fact that the extremists had automatic and large caliber weapons, which were legal in the RSA but not in the DSA, aided them in their raid.

The poor and minorities were still trying to get out of the RSA but were finding the process very depressing, especially after the DSA declared a moratorium on the movement process. The RSA was finding it increasingly difficult to find workers to fill menial jobs.

Churches complained about not having the funds and supplies necessary to take care of all of the people who were in need. There was also some infighting occurring between different churches about which church should take care of which needy. Some congregations, naturally, were contributing more than others. Some churches were sending the needy to other churches and some were just refusing service. That was just another nail in the coffin of those who needed help. Medicare and Medicaid would have come in mighty handy for those people.

Prisons and jails were overcrowded in the RSA and there was little incentive and no funds to build new prisons. Riots and demonstrations were a common occurrence with the prison system. The RSA leaders had too many other pressing problems to worry about to concern themselves with felons.

CHAPTER THIRTY

2018

This is the year that the beginning of the end took place in the Republican States of America. It began with an announcement by Saudi Arabia that they needed their remaining oil resources for their people to use until they could complete their conversion to renewable energy. Suddenly, the major source for oil for the Republican States of America was gone. Transportation slowed in the RSA. Word of the dwindling oil supplies in the RSA and Saudi Arabia's announcement finally reached the ordinary citizens of the RSA. The people of the RSA were angry and most of that anger was directed at their own country. Why hadn't they been told about the oil problem? Natural gas, which had also been used as fuel for vehicles over the years, was also running out. The anger and depression among the people in the RSA was very close to rebellion.

In September of 2018, a category five hurricane made a direct hit on the South Texas Nuclear Plant. The eighteen foot surge and the debris did nearly all of the damage. The plant was flooded, nuclear waste got scattered, and radiation was spread across the State of Texas and surrounding states, especially Louisiana. The lack of sufficient fuel supplies for gas engine vehicles and the lack of renewable vehicles ensured that the evacuation of people from the area fell way short of what should have occurred. Thousands died with the initial damage. Hundreds more died in the months following the disaster. Surrounding states set up shelters for any evacuees, including New Mexico in the DSA. The people in those shelters were even at risk as the radiation spread. To make matters worse, all food and water, except what was packaged, was rendered not fit for human consumption.. Many people learned that lesson the hard way. Even though they had been warned by the Government, they were desperate and took chances. The lack of fuel for vehicles also affected the

speed with which supplies could be transported to the affected areas. Many people were left in isolated areas and did not get needed supplies in time.

The effects of the hurricane and the lack of response from the RSA Government left the people in the affected areas in a state of disbelief. How could the Government have allowed this to happen? It didn't take long for the grieving and depression of those citizens to be replaced with anger and hate for the Government that was unable, or unwilling, to help them in their hour of need. Mexican Americans, who made up the majority of the citizens in the stricken area, could not help but wonder if the response had been different had the population been made up more of caucasians. They remembered that years earlier, when a hurricane struck another southern state coast which was inhabited by a majority of Black Americans, the response had also been slow and many people had died.

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE

2019

The fallout after the South Texas Nuclear Plant destruction included not only radiation but widespread rioting and looting in Texas and Louisiana. The people there were desperate and were losing control of any sensible behavior. The DSA sent trucks loaded with food and water into the State of Texas. The trucks were taken by rioting citizens and never made it very far into the State. The truck workers, all members of the Red Cross, were beaten and left for dead. After that, the DSA did not attempt to send any more supplies into the RSA. Not only that, but the DSA also again reinforced the Armed Forces personnel at all its borders with the RSA in preparation for what might happen.

It did not take long for the rioting and looting to spread to neighboring states. The poor and minorities were joined by other average citizens such as firemen, policemen, and Armed Forces personnel. All of them made up the other ninety-nine percent of the population of the RSA. The Federal Government declared martial law in those affected states. The problem was that there was hardly anyone who would try to stop the looters and rioters. Also, the citizens in the RSA, because of liberal gun laws, were armed to the teeth. People in the northern states saw what was happening in the southern states and began voicing their sympathy and joining the looting and rioting. After all, they were all part of that ninety-nine percent.

Revolution signs cropped up in demonstrations. The people thought they had been betrayed by their government and the only solution was to form a new responsive government. Except for some of the Generals in the Armed Forces, most of the personnel were among that ninety-nine percent. They began to communicate via the internet and making plans for a high level meeting.

That meeting took place in Birmingham, Alabama. High echelon Armed Forces personnel from the Air force, the Army, the Navy, the Marines, and the National Guard, met and discussed taking over the RSA by force. They, and their relatives, were a part of the citizenry of the RSA that had been lied to by the leaders of the RSA and they had lost all trust in the system. They were not a part of the big corporation conglomerate or the members of the wealthy class of citizens who had been receiving favored treatment from the Republicans for decades. An Armed Forces General, or other high ranking officer was put in charge of the forces in each State.

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

2020

The world seemed to stand still as the turmoil in the Republican States of America continued. Every State was systematically being taken over by the revolutionary forces with little or no resistance. After all, who was left that could and would offer resistance? Homes of the wealthy were taken over by looters and sometimes burned. Many of the well-to-do, who lived in the northern states, fled to Canada, the same country that the draft dodgers had fled to during the ill-begotten Vietnam conflict.

Most of the financial and political leaders of the country, however, took shelter in secret bunkers that had been in construction since the early part of the 21st century. The original purpose of those bunkers had been to provide a refuge for the political and military leaders of the country, and for the influential citizens, in case of an attack by a foreign country or countries. It never occurred to them that they might have to take refuge from their own citizens. The problem with that idea, once the revolution began, was that the construction workers who built the bunkers, and many of the guards whose job it was to protect the inhabitants of the bunkers, came from average or lower income families and were not sympathetic to the cause of the wealthy people and political leaders who had gotten them and their families into their current predicament. When the revolutionary leaders and their armies found out about the bunkers they were even more angry. That was another secret that the Government had withheld from its citizens. The uncaring attitude of the Government for the other ninety-nine percent of the population of the RSA was raised to a new level. The bunkers, of course, were found and the citizens were ready to kill the inhabitants as they came out, but cooler heads prevailed. The leaders of the revolutionary army decided to keep the people

inside the bunkers until a decision could be reached as to what to do with them.

It was only a matter of time before the revolutionary forces overtook the Capitol of the RSA in Washington D.C. By then, of course, all of the political leaders, who weren't in a bunker, had fled the Country. The President, Vice-President, and their families, were flown to Israel where they were granted asylum.

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

A NEW COUNTY IS FORMED

In December of the year 2020, a new provisional administration, selected by the revolutionary leaders, took over control of the country previously known as the Republican States of America. They named their new country, "The New Republic States of America". The Democrat States of America recognized the new country the following day and many other countries, following the lead of the DSA, recognized it during the weeks following the establishment of the new country.

The DSA, and other countries, at the request of the DSA, began transporting renewable energy vehicles, food, clothing, and clean water to the new country, especially the southern States that had been so hard hit by the effects of the hurricane.

It was decided by the leaders of the new country that they would give the inhabitants of the bunkers a choice. That choice would also apply to the wealthy and political leaders who fled the country. That choice for the wealthy citizens was that each would have to donate one half of his total worth to the new Government to be able to continue living in the New Republic States of America. For the political leaders in the bunkers and the ones who had fled the country, they could continue living in the New Republic States of America but they would never be allowed to serve in any political capacity. Most of the political leaders agreed with their choice. Many of the wealthy citizens, however, chose to move to other countries. Giving up any of their wealth was not a consideration.

It was the hope of the citizens of the New Republic States of America that the new Government would be more responsive to the non-elitist majority of the new country. Only time would tell.

Imagine what it would be like if the United States was divided in half with Republicans governing one half and Democrats the other half.

In this work of fiction, the author explains how he thinks each political party would govern its particular part of the Un-United States of America, based on the ideological history of each political party.

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